

*Hafa Adai!*

Funding requests exceed govt budget by \$38M. » **PAGE 2**

\$5K cash bail for former lawmaker Juan I. Tenorio. » **PAGE 3**

# Saipan Tribune

75¢

**AFTER ATTACK, SUSPECT ALLEGEDLY YELLED:**

## 'I killed the doc with my hands!'

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By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**D**r. Francois Claasens is the person who was allegedly stabbed in the neck by a 36-year-old man with a fishing spear on Rota over the weekend and is now fighting for his life.

» **Dr. Claasens fighting for life at Guam Naval Hospital**

Claasens, 60, the only physician assigned at Rota Commonwealth Health Center, has only 20 percent chance of survival, according to assistant attorney general Shannon Foley yesterday.

Claasens is currently being treated at the Guam Naval Hospital. He remained unconscious and on life support, police said yesterday.

**See I KILLED on Page 4**

▲ **William Abraham Kapono Mathewson emerges from the courtroom escorted by Corrections officers and court marshals after a bail hearing yesterday in the Superior Court. A \$250,000 cash bail was imposed on Mathewson for attempted murder and other charges over the stabbing of Dr. Francois Claasens with a fishing spear in Rota.**

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

## Disturbing video of animal cruelty surfaces

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A disturbing video of a dog being killed in public on Saipan surfaced last Sunday after Guam resident Aguarin Iriarte emailed the animal cruelty video to the *Saipan Tribune*.

"In social circles to the south, there has been a video circulating of a man who appears to be slamming a dog

repeatedly on what looks like the pavilion opposite your offices along Beach Road. The video is starkly cold not only because the actions of this heartless man, but because there are a number of others who look on and do nothing," Iriarte said in his email.

The 8-second video shows a man, who was with a group of friends across the JP Center along Beach Road, slamming the dog twice; once

on the ground and the second time on the wall of the barbecue pit in the pavilion.

It was apparent that the dog had been alive prior to being killed at the end of the video. All this was happening while his friends laughed.

"I have forwarded the video to Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan) who has told me that there are no animal cruelty

**See VIDEO on Page 4**

## GIAA won't provide interim facility to Star Marianas

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Guam International Airport Authority's interim measures for Star Marianas Airlines' access to their airport have been dropped recently, but construction on a facility appears to be moving forward.

According to emails exchanged between Star Marianas and GIAA, cop-

ies of which were obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, the 40-foot container for a temporary Guam Customs processing area was dropped because it was "not cost effective."

According to the emails, the ready-made containers that GIAA planned to lease did not meet Guam Customs requirements.

GIAA explained that containers

**See GIAA on Page 4**

» **But construction of facility moves forward**

## INSIDE



### NATION

President Barack Obama staunchly defended a framework nuclear agreement with Iran as a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" to prevent a bomb and bring longer-term stability to the Middle East.

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### WORLD

One of the gunmen who slaughtered 148 people at a college in Kenya was identified Sunday as the law-school-educated son of a Kenyan government official.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Rolling Stone magazine retracted a widely discredited article about an alleged gang rape at the University of Virginia after a top journalism school issued a scathing report Sunday concluding it had failed to meet proper journalistic standards.

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## Local

# Funding requests exceed govt budget by \$38M

By JOEL D. PINAROC  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

It will be a juggling act for the House Committee on Ways and Means as it sets a series of hearings on the proposed \$145.8-million government budget.

According to Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), he has started reviewing the detailed budget proposal, as well as proposed appropriations from each of the government agencies.

The budget requests of government departments and their



JOEL D. PINAROC  
Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) discusses a tentative schedule for the hearings on the proposed \$145.8-million government budget.

respective activities exceeded the \$145.8-million proposed budget by \$38.7 million, Sablan said.

This means not all government departments will get the exact budget that they requested.

Sablan said his committee will have to sit down with the departments and find out how to "help" these departments with

their budget requests.

Like the previous years, he said it will be a "challenge" to allocate the available resources, as the departments' budget re-

quests contain budget for personnel and other "activities."

"We would have to find out which positions are critical and

See FUNDING on Page 4

## Govt appointees to face Senate confirmation

Appointees for the Commonwealth Ports Authority board, the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Public Works are set to face the Senate on separate confirmation hearings scheduled this week.

Pete P. Reyes, Jose R. Lifoi-foi, and Roman Tudela, who were earlier appointed to join the CPA board, will face the Senate on April 8, as well as Robert A. Guerrero, the acting commissioner of the DOC.

James Ada, the acting secretary of the DPW, is set to face the Senate for the confirmation hearing on April 9.

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), the chair of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, will preside over the hearings, which will be open to the public.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos in March named more appointees to gov-

ernment agencies, including the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Medical Profession Licensing Board, who will need confirmations.

Inos appointed Albert A. Taitano to serve on the CUC board of directors representing Saipan. This initial appointment requires the advice and consent of both the Senate and House of Representatives.

If confirmed, Taitano will serve a four year-term to begin on the date confirmed by both chambers of the Legislature. The counting of the four-year terms starts on the date the appointment is approved by the Senate.

The governor also appointed Dr. Warren Creed to serve as a member of the Medical Profession Licensing Board, which will require the advice and consent of the Senate. If confirmed, he will serve a four-year term.

(Joel D. Pinaroc)

## OAG files 11 criminal charges against Ogumoro, 2 co-defendants

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Chief Prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas filed yesterday 11 criminal charges against former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro and his two co-defendants.

At yesterday's arraignment, Ogumoro, his girlfriend Katherine M. Manglona, and her brother Herman M. Manglona all pleaded not guilty of all charges.

The information charged Ogumoro with two counts of

conspiracy to commit theft by unlawful taking or disposition, four counts of misconduct in public office, two counts of theft by unlawful taking or disposition, and two counts of removal of government property.

The information charged Katherine Manglona with conspiracy to commit theft by unlawful taking or disposition and theft by unlawful taking or disposition.

Herman Manglona was charged with conspiracy to commit theft by unlawful tak-

ing or disposition and receiving stolen property.

Attorney Mark Hanson served as counsel for Ogumoro and Katherine Manglona. Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer represented Herman Manglona.

Assistant attorney general Clayton Graef appeared for the government.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja set a status conference for May 6, 2015 at 1:30pm.

All three defendants are out on bail.

» Defendants plead not guilty

## the safe JAMBOREE

SAFE. AWARE. FREE. EMPOWER

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and the Family Violence Task Force invite you for a day of family fun at the 5th Annual SAFE (Safe. Aware. Free. Empower) Jamboree!

The SAFE Jamboree will feature live entertainment, food vendors, exhibit booths, and activity centers for children all day long!

**Saturday, April 11, 2015**  
**12 pm to 5 pm**  
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This project is supported by Grant No. 2013-MU-AX-0013 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

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#SAFEJamboree



# \$5K cash bail for former lawmaker Juan I. Tenorio

## »Police said Tenorio also tried to attack female passenger of car, local witness

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday kept the \$5,000 cash bail imposed on former lawmaker Juan Iguel Tenorio, who was arrested on Saturday for allegedly assaulting a male teenage driver in Marpi.

According to court documents, the 65-year-old Tenorio also allegedly tried to attack the driver's female companion and attempted to punch a local witness who tried to stop him.

Camacho prohibited Tenorio from having direct or indirect contact with the alleged victim, potential witnesses, and Marianas Trekking.

Preliminary hearing will be on April 13 at 9am. Arraignment will be on April 20 at 9am.

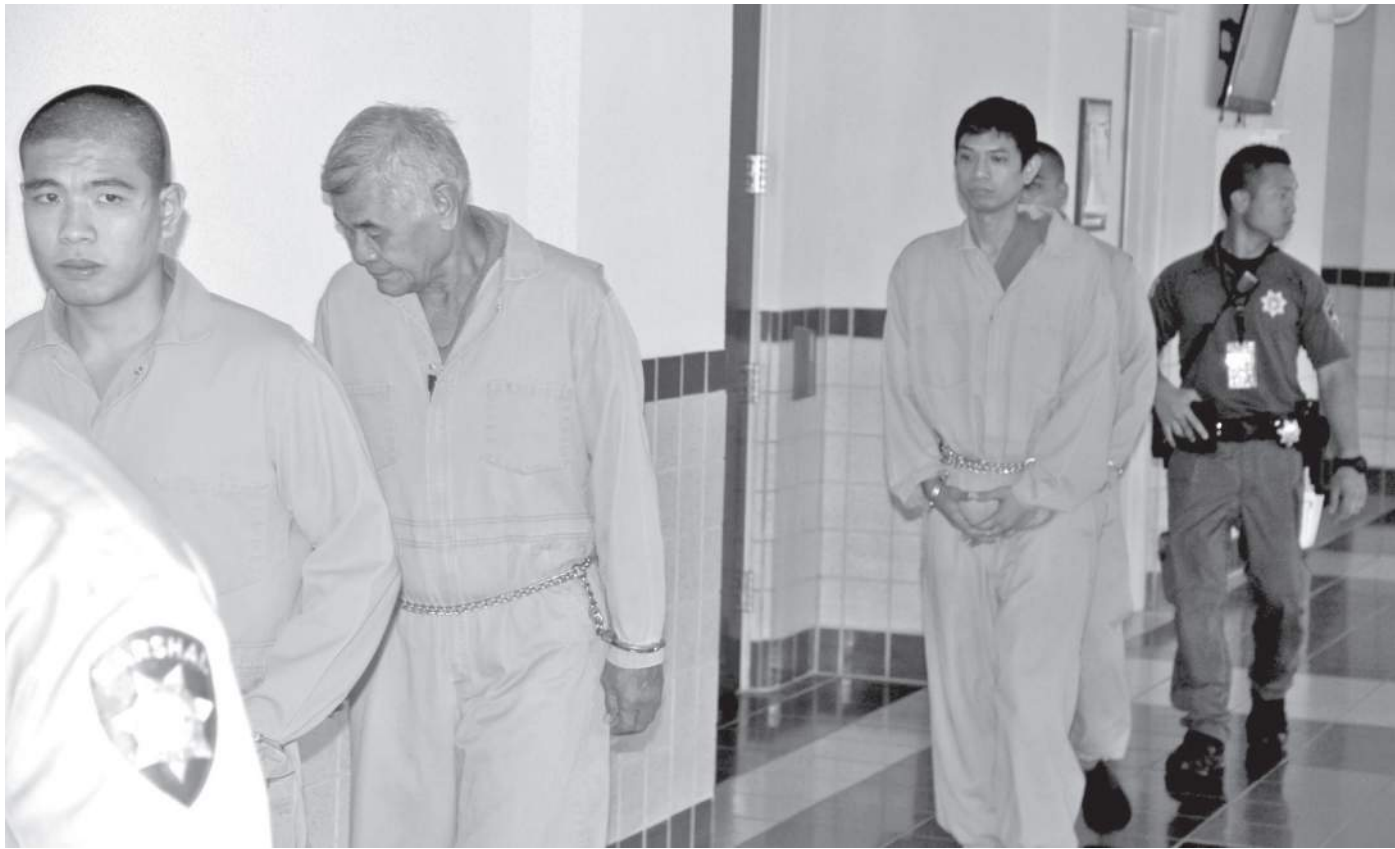
Tenorio was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace, which carry a total maximum sentence of one year and six months in prison.

Tenorio said he can't afford to hire a lawyer and that he is still paying a \$25,000 loan for attorney's fee to lawyer Robert T. Torres, who represented him in his previous criminal case.

The defendant is the human resources manager for Grandvrio Resort, the former Hafadai Beach Hotel.

The previous case Tenorio was referring to stems from allegations that he sexually abused an 11-year-old girl in May 2010. In September 2013, he was acquitted of the charges.

Camacho allowed assistant public defender Michael Sato to



Former lawmaker Juan I. Tenorio, center, walks with other defendants toward a courtroom in the Superior Court for bail hearing yesterday morning. Tenorio was arrested on Saturday for allegedly punching a 19-year-old male driver of a car.

serve as counsel for Tenorio at yesterday's initial court appearance hearing.

Camacho required the defendant to be assessed by the Office of the Adult Probation if he is qualified to be represented by the Office of the Public Defender.

Assistant attorney general Shannon Folley appeared for the government at the hearing.

Police detective Jesus K. Wabul stated in his report that after the Department of Public Safety received a call on Thurs-

day at 2:18pm about an assault and battery incident in the parking lot of Marianas Trekking, a police officer responded to the scene.

Wabul said the responding officer learned that the 19-year-old male and his two female friends were followed by Tenorio from the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque to the parking lot of Marianas Trekking, where the assault happened.

The officer observed the victim suffering a one-inch laceration in his nose. One female passenger of the car was crying

for fear because Tenorio approached them.

The officer also observed bloodstains on the ground next to the vehicle. An ambulance was then summoned.

The teenager told police he was driving his car with two passengers heading to the Grotto when a white vehicle, which was heading in the same direction, passed them and cut in front of his vehicle at a close distance.

The female passenger got upset and flicked off Tenorio, who was the driver of the white car.

Tenorio then followed them to the Marianas Trekking parking lot, where he got down.

Tenorio allegedly tried to attack one of the two female passengers, but the teenage driver tried to stop him.

Tenorio then allegedly punched the male teenager on the face and tried to attack the female again. As the teenager tried to stop Tenorio again, the former lawmaker punched him on the nose, causing it to bleed.

The staff of the Marianas Trekking arrived and pulled

Tenorio away from the teenage driver. One local staff, who is related to Tenorio, told the defendant to leave the area. Tenorio got in his car and left.

A witness said Tenorio was very aggressive so he tried to hold him and the victim apart.

A local witness said he saw Tenorio pushing the teenage driver against a car and cussing at him.

The witness heard the former lawmaker as saying, "F\_\_k you you don't know who you're f\_\_ng with. You don't know the f\_\_k I am!"

The local witness said the teenager apologized to Tenorio, but the latter punched him twice.

Tenorio started yelling and showed his middle finger at the female passenger of the car.

Tenorio tried to open the passenger door, but the local witness stopped him and told him not to do anything crazy.

The local witness noticed Tenorio had his keys in his hand and had a key sticking out in between his fingers just below his knuckles.

The local witness warned Tenorio if he touches the female, he will fight him. Tenorio got angry again and allegedly tried to punch the teenager with his fist that had the key sticking out.

The local witness held Tenorio down to the ground. Tenorio allegedly tried to punch him with his fist that still clenched the keys, but the witness was able to hold him down.

The local witness asked the staff of Marianas Trekking to call the police.

Tenorio allegedly left the area after hearing the word "police."

## Govt urges public to review draft EIS on military plans

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The general public should now start reading and reviewing a draft environmental impact statement on proposed military installations on the CNMI.

The draft EIS was published on Saturday and can be found online at <http://www.cnmi-jointmilitarytrainingeis.com/documents>.

It seeks to solicit public comments within a period of 30 days.

The EIS essentially outlines the environmental and economic impact of military installations on the CNMI.

Aside from joint military exercises, the military has continued to push for a "hybrid" divert plan that calls for military installations to be established on Saipan and Tinian, and not just on Tinian.

According to Press Secretary Ivan Blanco, the government is urging the public to

review the draft EIS, considering that there are now only about 24 days remaining before the military holds public hearings on the EIS on April 29 and April 30.

The 30-day window allows the general public and interested parties to review the EIS and air their questions during the public hearings.

Under the "hybrid" option, the military is proposing to add infrastructure to both Saipan and Tinian civilian airports, noting that both airports would still be operated as they are today, under civilian authority, with the goal of reducing any potential interference with civil aviation operations and expansion plans on Saipan.

The military said its presence for exercises on Saipan would be scaled down from the Saipan-only approach.

Outside of a crisis, the anticipated maximum Air Force activity would be two to four

tanker aircraft for up to eight weeks per year from CNMI airports, with the majority of activity on Tinian, the military said.

The military last week faced lawmakers on the Divert Plan and one of the key topics was the completion of the draft EIS.

The administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos has said it "continues to express a preference for a Tinian alternative" and that there is "strong resistance" particularly on military presence in Saipan.

The divert airfield is intended to be an alternative landing base for Air Force planes if Andersen Air Force Base in Guam becomes unavailable because of weather or war.

CNMI officials are unified in their request to put the divert airfield on Tinian, where two-thirds of the island is already leased to the U.S. Department of Defense.

## M/V Luta is first large RORO vessel for CNMI, says Torres

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

M/V *Luta* will have a significant economic impact in the Commonwealth as the first roll on/roll off vessel that can carry cargo, multiple vehicles, and passengers to and from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The 165-foot vessel can carry 20 passengers and 30 20-foot container vans, according to Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres.

Torres was in Louisiana last week to attend M/V *Luta*'s christening.

He said the vessel will soon sail for Rota after a few design tweaks are finalized. The trip from the U.S. mainland to the CNMI is estimated to take from "30 to 40 days" depending on weather conditions.

"The vessel is huge. I think it can help businesses engaged in import and export," Torres said, citing the vessel's capacity.

The official said the vessel can also carry multiple vehicles, unlike an existing vessel in the CNMI that can only carry one.

Torres also said the vessel can even serve Guam and Saipan

and can transport vehicles. This can drastically reduce transport costs of vehicles, Torres said.

He said the M/V *Luta* will most probably dock at Rota's West Harbor.

Torres added that as of the moment, business details such as passenger fares and cargo fees have not been disclosed and it will be up to the operator to set the fees.

The vessel, after getting the clearance from the U.S. Coast Guard, will need to secure clearance from the Commonwealth Ports Authority and Customs Border Protection once it lands in the CNMI, Torres added.

Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig earlier said M/V *Luta* will have an impact on Rota, as it is expected to help the island's tourism and business sectors.

According to Atalig, one of the immediate impacts will be the lowering of ferry fares and transport costs of goods.

In January, Senate President Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota) hosted a meeting with the owners of the vessel, the U.S. Coast Guard, and officials of Rota to discuss the

impending arrival of the vessel.

In September 2014, Japanese businessman Takahisa Yamamoto invested about \$1.6 million in the retrofitted cargo and passenger ship that will bring passengers, agricultural goods, and other consumer items to and from Rota, Saipan, Tinian, the Northern Islands, and Guam.

Yamamoto, from Osaka, Japan, owns Luta Mermaid LLC, the main business of which is to operate M/V *Luta*.

"Luta" is other name for "Rota," where the cargo ship will be home-ported.

The 165-foot-long, 500-ton cargo ship was in Louisiana to obtain a certificate of inspection from the U.S. Coast Guard.

Hocog, who has helped Yamamoto realize his plan to further develop Rota, said having a cargo ship home-ported on Rota will reduce freight costs and lower the price of commodities.

The senator said this cargo ship will also be the "answer" to Rota's longstanding problem of food and other commodities shortage every time barges cannot go into the port because of rough seas.



## HPO board nominates Kalabera Cave to National Register of historic sites

The Historic Preservation Office review board nominated the “Kalabera Cave Rock Art Site” to the National Register of Historic Places.

There are about 50 prehistoric petroglyphs and rock engravings in the Kalabera Cave, measuring between 5 to 10 inches in size. Most of the engravings are portray headless human figures. The site may be a pre-historic

burial site.

The board was given a nomination form prepared by Scott Russell, executive director of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

According to HPO, their office submits one nomination to the National office per year.

Board vice chair Dr. Hiro Korishini said he has reviewed the document, noting that it

was of “extreme high quality and researched” and “thoroughly investigated” in terms

## Rush to set up shelter in typhoon-hit FSM

The head of the Red Cross in Federated States of Micronesia says authorities in Chuuk and Yap states are rushing to get emergency shelter set up after typhoon Maysak displaced thousands last week.

Isao Frank says on some islands, the category five typhoon destroyed up to 90 percent of homes, and evacuation centres are overcrowded.

He says agencies have spent the weekend sending relief supplies by boat and plane to affected areas.

“On some islands up to 90 percent of homes have been destroyed and much of the population has been displaced. So the situation on the islands is really dire right now.”

Isao Frank says the country will need long-term support from the international community to recover.

The International Organ-

isation for Migration has announced that it is sending personnel and relief supplies to FSM and the United States has also released funding under the Compact of Free Association between the two countries.

He added that all the previ-

Second FSM tropical storm weakens

The U.S. National Weather Service says a tropical storm in the Federated States of Micronesia is weakening fast and is unlikely to pose any threat to areas still reeling from typhoon Maysak.

A meteorologist on Guam, Mike Middlebrook, says Haishen has been downgraded to a tropical depression that will likely dissipate by Tuesday.

He says the storm was forecast to hit Chuuk state, where five people will killed and thousands left homeless when it was hit by typhoon Maysak last week. **(Radio New Zealand)**

ous and current archaeological information regarding the Kalabera Cave is also included in the document.

Board member Don Farrell added Russell has “done an excellent job.”

Korishini motioned to “approve, endorse, and concur” with the nomination form submitted by HPO.

The board voted unanimously in favor of the nomination. **(Dennis B. Chan)**

## ERRATUM

In the story titled “Juan Tenorio allegedly beats up teenage driver” that was published on April 6, 2010, it said: “The police said the victim was an Asian male. It was not immediately clear if he was a tourist.” This is incorrect. It should have stated, “It was not immediately clear if he was a tourist.” Our apologies.

## VIDEO

From Page 1

laws in the CNMI. Guam I am sure has its fair share of animal abuses but this circulating video certainly does not bode well for the image of the Commonwealth,” Iriarte said.

Iriarte also said that this was discovered through a group of his friends on an app particularly for Android cell phones called Whatsapp. The video was passed to friends and didn’t particularly indicate the date or the person who took the footage.

However, that was not the problem. After *Saipan Tribune* posted the video on social media it had already reached more than 6,000 views and shared by over 200 individuals within 24 hours.

Through social media, the community voiced out their anger, frustration, and grief after watching the video. Majority of them either called for identifying the man who killed the hapless animal or implementing animal cruelty laws on Saipan.

## Lack of animal cruelty law

In 2010, former representative Stanley T. Torres introduced House Bill No. 17-35. This particular bill, also called the Animal Protection Act, sought to criminalize the unnecessary harm, suffering, or killing of animals in the CNMI.

This past legislation proposes prohibiting animal abuse, neglect, and pet theft with penalty provisions. It defines cruel mistreatment as torturing or inflicting unnecessary physical injury upon an animal.

It also states that cruel neglect is defined as failing to provide an animal with necessary food,

water, or shelter or failing to provide veterinary care for an obvious, serious illness or injury. The bill also showed offenses and fines of up to \$1,000 and an imprisonment up to one year or both.

After it was passed by the 17th House of Representatives, the Senate failed to pass the bill and no action was taken since then. Similar legislations in the past from the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th were also introduced but to no avail as no actions were further taken.

In an interview, Propst said that the video was absolutely appalling and is a good example of why CNMI needs animal cruelty laws.

“This monster that slammed the dog unto the wall most likely cannot be prosecuted because there are no animal cruelty laws in existence right now,” he said.

Propst said that Torres’ past legislation is a good one and is looking forward into re-introducing it.

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, in an interview during a roadside waving yesterday evening, said that he had seen the video as well and said that he does agree that lawmakers should look into the idea of animal cruelty laws.

Saipan Mayor’s Office Dog Control Program manager Spencer Marchadesch said that he had also viewed the video and was in disbelief. Marchadesch said that he is working with some animal advocates here in the CNMI into addressing Torres’ past legislation.

He also noted that possible funding could be provided by the Humane Society if the CNMI were to implement anti-animal cruelty laws.

## CUC replacing power plant roof

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has determined a lowest-bidder for the roof replacement for Power Plant 1.

According to CUC, the government is now processing a notice-to-proceed with the project to replace the plant’s roof.

Noting the time it took get the project going, CUC executive director Alan Fletcher said they had to go back to the two-lowest bidders chosen to modify expenses.

CUC “revised it to get it within an affordable budget,”

he said.

According to CUC management, a six-month completion date is given for the project.

Three months would be for procurement of off-island supplies, according to CUC.

In CUC’s board of directors meeting yesterday, director Joe Torres called this “an urgent project,” nothing the rainy season that is on the way.

Board director David Sablan, upon hearing the update from CUC management, noted that it appears the project will probably be done by the first-quarter of the next fiscal year.

## GIAA

From Page 1

needed to be modified on a purchase agreement only and takes several weeks to be modified. This was proven “not cost effective given the time of actual use and the added expense (part of cost recovery).”

As for their construction of a facility, GIAA said a contractor has submitted their bonds and GIAA will be issuing the notice to proceed this week on renovations for facility, which is referred to known as the “Yellow Cargo Bay.”

The emails noted that GIAA would work with the contractor to accomplish the customs processing area first for operational use. Timelines were not given.

The emails reveal that there are two access points in the facility to the apron that require proximity card readers. Star Marianas received their SIDA badges, which allow access to secured areas, taxi runways, loading gates, among others,

at the Guam airport. They had requested these as long as two years ago, it was learned.

GIAA notes the facility under construction as the “Light Aircraft Commuter Facility,” explaining that light aircraft is defined 12,500 lbs or less and are exempt from TSA security mandates such as passenger screening.

Last month, Christian and Rota treasurer Frank Atalig said an interim facility would be provided by the end of February. GIAA had proposed to put

## I KILLED

From Page 1

The victim’s injuries include puncture wounds to the backside of the neck and right side of mouth. He sustained numerous deep lacerations and contusions to the head, and his right ear was bleeding. He suffered broken legs and arms and a skull fracture.

At yesterday’s hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$250,000 cash bail on William Abraham Kapono Mathewson, who was arrested for attempted murder, aggravated assault, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The court initially imposed “no bail” on Mathewson, who is a fisherman/farmer.

Preliminary hearing will be on April 14 at 1:30pm. Arraignment will be on April 20 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed as counsel for Mathewson.

Assistant attorney general Shannon Foley recommended the court to keep the “no bail,” considering the seriousness of the charges that include at-

tempted murder.

At the hearing, Mathewson disclosed he has three children, but is a single parent. He said all his family members are in Hawaii.

Police detective Shaw Clay DLC. Taisacan stated in his report that on Saturday at 7:30am, Department of Public Safety Rota Central received a 911 call from Claasens’ minor son, who reported that his father and “Pono,” who was later identified as Mathewson, were fighting.

When a police officer arrived at the doctor’s house in Teneto Village, he noticed Mathewson, who was without a shirt, sitting on a chair.

The officer observed the victim, who also had no shirt lying face down, with a lot of blood on his head.

The officer noticed a thin rod protruding from the victim’s mouth as he lay on the ground.

The officer later recognized the victim as Claasens.

Mathewson allegedly shouted at the officer that, “I did it! I killed the doc with my hands.”

The officer noticed Mathewson’s hands had blood and his breath smelled a strong odor of alcohol.

The suspect told the officer twice that he wants to watch the doctor die and that’s what he gets for destroying his family.

Police then arrested Mathewson.

At DPS Central during processing, a police officer recovered a folding knife on the right side of his pants.

While inside the cell, Mathewson kept yelling and punching the wall, kicking the door, damaging the metal shelf.

Emergency Medical Services were summoned to the scene and transported the doctor to Rota CHC for further treatment.

Later on the same day, a police detective interviewed the doctor’s minor son, who revealed that Mathewson came to the house to visit his father.

Mathewson and Claasens were talking at the back of the house. As the son made coffee for them and was to bring to the back, his father told him to call 911.

The child observed his father with a bloody face. He immediately ran into the house and called 911.

The child then walked up toward the house’s balcony facing where the two were at and saw the suspect punching his father

on the head.

The child said Mathewson also hit his father on the head with a rock and a chain.

The boy saw Mathewson pushed a spear into his father by the neck then sat on a chair until the police arrived.

After stabbing Claasens with a fishing spear in the neck area, Mathewson allegedly continued whacking him with a chain and a big black pot on the head.

At a press briefing yesterday, DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero said DPS Saipan and Rota police, along with the Office of the Attorney General, are working together in the investigation in the case.

Deleon Guerrero said he will be sending some detectives to assist Rota investigators in this case.

DPS acting spokesman Jason Tarkong said surgeons in Guam were able to remove the spear from the victim.

Tarkong said injuries to the victim as the result of the assault left the victim in serious condition.

Sources said Claasens is well loved by people on Rota and that he is known as a good fisherman who shared his catch to the people for free.

budget proposal on April 1, as mandated by the Constitution.

He stressed that once the budget is finalized, the government is bound to “work” with it.

Inos submitted a budget proposal of \$145.8 million to the Legislature on Wednesday last week to beat the April 1 deadline.

The budget represents an increase of \$11.5 million, or 8.55 percent, from the budget of the previous fiscal year.

The budget was derived from the gross budgetary resources reported by the Secretary of Finance for fiscal year 2016 at \$183.55 million.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) earlier said \$145.8 million is “better than \$134 million.”

## FUNDING

From Page 2

which are not,” he said, adding that departments will also need to identify priorities.

“We will also try to look for items that are not necessary and which are not, and from there, maybe make the necessary adjustments on a department’s budget request,” he said.

The lawmaker said he will start scheduling the hearings “tentatively” next week, or after a scheduled House session on Rota on April 9.

Sablan said there will be no discussions on the budget, except to acknowledge that Gov. Eloy S. Inos has indeed submitted the



# CCA's Oral Cancer road-waving a success

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Commonwealth Cancer Association, community members, and partners yesterday enjoyed promoting oral cancer awareness after receiving enthusiastic support from the community in the form of motorists honking their cars horns during a roadside-waving activity yesterday along Beach Road in Oleai.

The reception was enough for CCA program manager Juan L. Babauta to declare yesterday's campaign a success.

Babauta said that it was the third time that a roadside waving was done in celebration of Oral Cancer Awareness Month, which all leads up to CCA's signature fund-raising event, the Marianas March Against Cancer.

"The roadside waving is part of CCA and our partners' efforts to help spread awareness of the effects of chewing tobacco and betel nut as it is the major cause of oral cancer," he said.

Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres, who

was present at the roadside waving with his family members, said that they were there to support Oral Cancer Awareness Month.

"I ask the community for their support and to be strong to stop oral cancer," Torres said.

During the entire month of April, CCA will be hosting presentations and visiting schools to address the concerns and raise awareness on oral cancer. There will also be a forum on oral cancer that includes stakeholders and partners.

Mami Ikeda, a huge supporter for awareness on oral cancer, was present. She carried a picture of her brother Kazu, who passed away from the deadly disease, while waving at people.

Ikeda said that she reached out to all of Kazu's friends on Facebook to pass by during the roadside waving and rev up their engines in support of oral cancer awareness month.

"This is good. The awareness is spreading and trying to help us so I feel that the awareness is really getting out there," she said.



Commonwealth Cancer Association and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Division of Public Health staff and two volunteers hold up a streamer promoting oral cancer awareness during CCA's roadside-waving activity yesterday along Beach Road in Oleai.

# CUC eyes debts payment for 2016 operations budget

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. emphasizes payment of their debt, as they work on their fiscal year 2016 budget. This year's budget is about a 6-percent increase from last year, according to executive director Alan Fletcher, largely due to debt repayment to two other government agencies.

In their budget work session yesterday, CUC legal counsel James Hirok said that CUC met with the Commonwealth Development Authority executive director Manuel Sablan and their attorneys recently.

CUC learned they would have to begin their dividend payment to CDA for debt owed, but Hirok indicated he would report the full details in executive session.

According to Hirok, by October 2016, CUC will owe CDA about \$4.32 million to CDA.

From then on, CUC's yearly obligation will be \$1.082 million, payable on a quarterly basis or \$260,000 every quarter, he added.

CUC board member David Sablan asked if the money set aside "would not exchange hands and just go into a fund." Sablan suggested that the CDA board of directors just want to see that money is put

aside, but were not necessarily "going to call it."

However, Hirok responded that this was "not the message we got from their executive director."

"The message we got is, if we put [money] into a sinking fund that would be used by CDA for capital improvement projects—but not only by CUC, by all government agencies. We would have to borrow from CDA to use that money. So it's not an offset," he said.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher said the CDA dividend payment is a contractual obligation that they need to meet, proposing to the board that they "do not defer this any longer."

He said that CDA has allowed for deferment but this does not change the liability or help CUC reduce the amount owed.

The other debt service portion is for wharfage fees, another contractual obligation, owed to the Commonwealth Ports Authority, he said.

This goes back to a 2008 agreement that covered wharfage fees for the prior 10 or 15 years that were not paid by the fuel supplier in the CPA port, he said, indicating this was passed on to CUC contractually.

The board reconvenes today to further discuss and approve their FY 2016 budget.

## This is My IT&E!

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(4) Movie Passes

3rd Prize

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- Message of Commercial

ALL TV Commercial entries must be submitted on or before Friday, April 10 - 2015.

ALL entries must be submitted on a memory stick ONLY.

Entries can ONLY be dropped off at the IT&E Sales & Marketing Office - Middle Rd. Gualo Rai - Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00AM to 5:00PM.

Person who produced the TV Commercial must be present at time of submission and will be required to sign a terms & conditions agreement.

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# Kan Pacific, DPL still in talks on lease extension

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Marianas Resort and Spa general manager Gloria Cavanagh disclosed that they are still in discussions with the Department of Public Lands regarding the extension of the Kan Pacific property's land lease

which expires in 2018.

Last month DPL secretary Pete Tenorio recommended an alternative solution for leasing agreements for hotels with expiring public land leases with the government.

As reported earlier, two alternatives were given, an extension or terminating its land

lease early, which will require legislative approval, for longer term leases.

This gives some assurance to Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands members,

Cavanagh said that Marianas Resort's lease is the first to expire, so other HANMI members are closely watching Kan Pacific's negotiations with DPL.

Cavanagh, however, said that unfortunately she is unable to share specifics of their dealing with DPL and Tenorio.

"The talks with DPL are new that I have not been able to even speak to HANMI regarding our progress. I am sure they will be glad to hear that talks are going

well. We were ready to go last fall but unfortunately had unexpected obstacles," she said.

She added that she believes that they have the right people working with them in the negotiations and are glad that progress is being made.

"Again the secretary has been supportive and we believe we

are working in the right direction. As soon as I have specifics to share I will. Our stance has not changed since we have issued our open letter back in September," Cavanagh said.

Marianas Resort's public land lease expires on April 30, 2018. It has a commitment of some \$30 million with added investments waiting in the wings, while other hotels such as Fiesta Resort and Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club and Kanoa Resort are nearing public land lease expiration as well.

With HANMI keeping a close watch on the negotiations between DPL and Kan Pacific, future investments in bettering member hotels are being held back until an assurance is made.

## Police arrest suspected Dandan burglar

Police arrested on Saturday night a 35-year-old man who allegedly burglarized a house in Dandan and stole some items and jewelry all worth about \$2,164 last March 27.

At a press briefing yesterday, Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero announced the arrest of Vincent Daniel Quitugua Terlaje.

Deleon Guerrero assured the community that police have been investigating the rash of burglary incidents in Dandan, but that they have not released information so not to jeopardize ongoing investigations. He also appealed to the people to stop buying items that are obviously stolen.

Terlaje was arrested for burglary, and theft. A \$10,000 cash bail was imposed yesterday.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that last March 27 a police officer was dispatched to a residence in Dandan, which was burglarized.

The officer learned that stolen from the house were a 32-inch Samsung flat screen TV, PS3 with games, several purses and wallets, and gold jewelry.

Pangelinan said that last Wednesday, she and two detectives met with a cooperating source, who disclosed that it was Terlaje who was responsible for the burglary at the Dandan house.

The cooperating source revealed that he saw Terlaje come out from the house's sliding window and was holding bags.

A brown car driven by a "local guy" later arrived and Terlaje allegedly loaded all the stolen items into the vehicle.

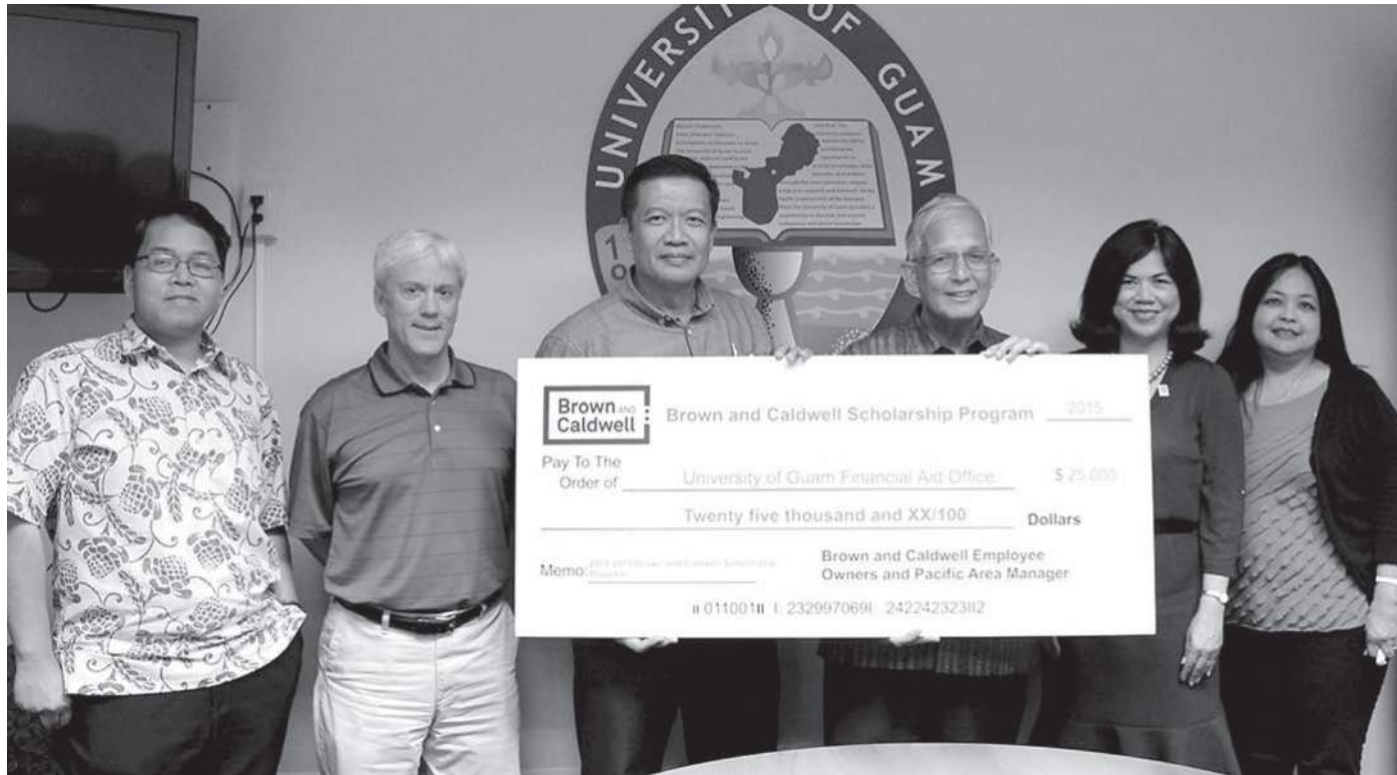
Pangelinan said that, last Thursday, they talked with the "local guy" who then admitted that Terlaje loaded three bags containing items into his car and brought the bags to another house. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Brown and Caldwell creates scholarship fund for UOG students

Representatives from the engineering firm Brown and Caldwell last week presented a check for \$25,000 to the University of Guam for engineering scholarships.

"To highlight Brown and Caldwell's presence on Guam for the past 25 years, we are proud to announce the establishment of a Brown and Caldwell Scholarship Fund to students majoring in engineering or an environmental science program at the University of Guam,"

### » Engineering firm presents \$25K to UOG for engineering and environmental science scholarships



said Noel Enriquez, Client Service Manager at Brown and Caldwell.

Every year for the next five years, five students will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship, beginning with the students attending the fall 2015 semester at UOG.

"With this generous scholarship offered by Brown and Caldwell, many more University of Guam students can pursue engineering," said Mark

From left, Mark Duarte, UOG Financial Aid director; William Gilman, Brown and Caldwell vice president; Noel Enriquez, Brown and Caldwell client service manager, Dr. Robert Underwood, UOG president; Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, UOG senior vice president, Academic & Student; and Remy Cristobal, UOG acting dean Enrollment Management & Student Services.

Duarte, UOG's Financial Aid director. "We thank Brown and Caldwell for their willingness to invest in our students and our island."

William Gilman, vice president of Brown and Caldwell, said in the future, the firm would like to see those students who have received the

scholarship come on as interns. "We're all about engineering, making sure we progress the engineering profession, and we're all about education too," said Gilman.

Brown & Caldwell, one of the largest employee-owned environmental company in the United States, is sponsor-

ing a scholarship designed to increase students' interest in the engineering and environmental professions and to support them in defining career goals while attending the University of Guam. The scholarship program will award a \$1,000 scholarship to five (5) students attending the

University of Guam.

The deadline to apply for the scholarship is June 26, 2015. The application can be downloaded at: <http://goo.gl/0UuzmW>

For more information on the scholarship and financial aid, call 735-2288 or visit [www.uog.edu/financial-aid](http://www.uog.edu/financial-aid).

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

#### EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

##### Key Functions:

The Executive Assistant will help the Executive Officer and the President maintain organizational relationships and act as the main point of contact particularly for business partners and customers in and from China, as well as colleagues and peers in the local Chinese Community. The Executive Assistant should support the management of the President's time and calendar to ensure that the President is fully informed and prepared for all meetings with such stakeholders and to assist in organizing events. The Executive Assistant should be highly organized, able to multi-task and manage multiple time-sensitive demands, have exceptional inter-personal and communication skills and support the mission of the organization. This professional must possess a combination of strategic thinking skills and the demonstrated ability to implement and manage the daily logistical demands of a project centered staffs who work cross functionally to respond to the needs of the organization and its constituents.

##### Job Requirements:

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and/or Information Technology. With excellent English and Chinese communication skills both oral and written. Must possess experience in MS Office suite. One-year related experience in administrative type functions an advantage. Service-oriented, with strong organizational skills, active listening and active learning is required. Must be open to a variety of responsibilities, changing assignments, and be an overall team player.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, April 17, 2015.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

#### General Maintenance Worker

High school diploma or equivalent with at least 3 years experience especially in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

#### Accountant

Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

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Michael A. White, ESQ. F0122  
The Law Office Of Michael A. White, LLC  
Post Office Box 5222  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-6547 • Fax: (670) 2349537

#### ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Plaintiff,	} CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0022
-v-	
The Estate of Margarita Ada Gaza, and Danilo N. Gaza Defendants	} Second Amended Notice of Sale

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 21, 2014, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions

Set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants on and to the following property:  
Lot no. 002 G 270, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly describe on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 90-1904, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sell will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Office of Michael White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.** The Terms and Conditions of sale may be obtain from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and condition shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 24 day of March, 2015:

/s/ By Michael A. White, Auctioneer



# Chagui'an massacre site disputed

**HAGATNA, Guam (AP)**—The Guam Preservation Trust is determined to put the Chagui'an Massacre site in Yigo into the National Register of Historic Places.

There's disagreement about the exact location of the site, however.

On Aug. 8, 1944, Marine Corps patrols from the 21st Regiment discovered 45 bodies of young Chamorro men in

Chagui'an, beheaded and with their hands tied behind their backs. They had been forced by the Japanese into a treacherous march to carry supplies and ammunition to the Japanese command post at Mount Mataguac, almost a mile and a half south of the massacre site.

According to John Blaz, chairman of the Chagui'an Massacre memorial, the Chagui'an Massacre is sometimes called

"The Unknown Massacre."

On Monday, residents attended an informational public meeting at the Yigo mayor's office, held by Garcia and Associates Natural and Cultural Resource Consultants.

Garcia and Associates was contracted by the Guam Preservation Trust to conduct research into the Chagui'an Massacre and build a packet to be presented to the National Register

of Historic Places.

"This is important because most registered historical sites on Guam are Japanese strongholds. The Chagui'an Massacre is important to Chamorros. So, having Chagui'an on the registry will build up and balance out the community's perspective of the war," said Kelly Marsh-Taitano, a Nihi Ta Fan Hasso cultural and historical consultant.

Some in attendance, such as former Yigo Mayor Robert Lizama, questioned the proposed site, which is about 100 yards north of Chalan Emsley.

Lizama was part of the original trek to the current Chagui'an Massacre memorial site in 2004. The site was discovered using the coordinates given by the 3rd Marine Division and oral accounts by Chamorro war survivors during interviews conducted by students of Peter Onedera at the University of Guam.

According to data presented at the meeting, the current Chagui'an Massacre site and the proposed site that will be presented to the National Register of Historic Places are a short distance from each other, but still within the Chagui'an area.

Garcia and Associates project manager Cecilie Craft estimates the distance from the original site to the proposed site to be roughly one kilometer.

"What happened is more important than the technical location," said Jolie Liston, a principal investigator with Garcia and Associates.

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**  
Happy birthday to Jack Kabiriel a.k.a. "Road Runner." Wishing you many more to come. Greetings from friends and family.



**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**  
Princess Sophia Gerardino celebrated her 7th birthday last April 5 at Shirley's Coffee Shop Susupe. Birthday greetings coming from family and friends.

## Changes in technology

Liston said past researchers hand-plotted locations on maps, whereas Garcia and Associates used current technology.

"It's interesting to note that the topographic maps used during World War II aren't even the same latitude and longitude as current maps using modern technology," Liston said.

Both sites would be part of the proposed memorial area, which satisfied both parties.

"I'm happy that people are still talking about the site," said Lizama. "These are our uncles -- Chamorros who paid the ultimate sacrifice. We must not forget them."

## MISSING KEY HOLDER

There will be a reward of **\$150.00** if found and returned. Please call Woo Jin An at 670 483-7525



## MARPAC DONATES

Guy F. Pudney, resident manager of Marpac, presents a check on behalf of Budweiser to Saipan Fishermen's Association president Gene Weaver as part of the company's support for this year's annual Mahi Derby on April 11, 2015, and the Saipan International Fishing Tournament on July 25-26, 2015. From left are Marpac sales manager James Lee, Pudney, Weaver, and SFA treasurer Martin F. Duenas. Interested applicants may pick up registration forms, rules and regulations and schedule of events at the Marianas Visitors Authority office. For more information about the derby, contact Ed Diaz at MVA at 1.670.664.3200/01 or via e-mail at ediaz@mymarianas.com.

**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



## UNITED STATES COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



## NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 4th Quarter General Membership Meeting on April 16, 2015, from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Caladium Hall.

### AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – February 13, 2015
- V. ACTION ITEMS
  - a. Ratification/Approval of Renewal of the Commonwealth Respite Service Program (CRSP) MOA between CDD and Ayuda Network, Inc.
  - b. Ratification/Approval of the Amendment of FY 2015 CRSP Budget
  - c. Ratification/Approval of Proposed State Plan Amendments for DD Basic Grant Program for FY 2015 and FY 2016
- VI. REPORT
  - a. Chairman
  - b. Executive Director
  - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
  - d. State Plan Committee Chairperson
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
  - a. March 2015 DD Awareness Month
  - b. Resource Directory
  - c. Disability Watch Newsletter
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Autism Awareness Month
  - b. 2017 – 2021 DD Basic Grant Five Year State Plan Focus Group Meetings and Surveys
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- X. MISCELLANEOUS
- XI. NEXT MEETING
- XII. ADJOURNMENT

*Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.*

/s/ Thomas J. Camacho  
Chairman

*This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)*



## Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



The CNMI WIC Program is looking for the following Translator:

- Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese)
- Bangladeshi
- Nepalese

### Requirement Qualifications:

- Fluent in and of the above languages both in oral and written.
- College degree related to the language and culture.
- Minimum 2 years experience as a professional translator for any of the above language.
- Basic Computer skills including MS Word, Internet, and Keyboarding

Please send your resume via email or fax along with the following requirement to [juliei@cnmiwic.org](mailto:juliei@cnmiwic.org). Fax No. (670) 664-4069 or drop it the Administrative Building at Upper Navy Hill, Bldg. N25, Mayoria Ave.

- Resume
- Copy of CNMI Driver's License and Passport
- Copy of Business License

Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to call Julie R. Inos at 664-4067 or 664-4070 or Ruth T. Sablan at 664-4076.



# Tinian commemorates Women's Month in March

"Cool Women, Hot Issues: Make it Happen."

With this theme, Tinian women celebrated Women's Month in March with small events that highlighted the role women play in the home and in the community. The month was kicked off with the Mayoral Proclamation that declared women's empowerment, followed by later events such as the sponsorship of the Catholic Mass for Women, a Parade of Cultures, a Walk-A-Thon with the Red Cross on, and finally, a conference held March 30 and 31 with emphasis on two focal issues: the Tinian Loves to Read Initiative and Militarization.

Drs. Souder and Betances, world-renown inspirational speakers, focused their presentations and discussions on "bridging the island/global divide" which were well received by women, men, and high school students who attended the conference.

Dr. Souder emphasized the critical role of women in linking tradition, family, and their community to the global community. The links are viewed as the umbilical cords bridging these gaps.

"Your identity as people is determined by your mother language and your successful link to the global community is your ability to speak and articulate well in English as it is the global language..." Dr. Souder said.

Dr. Betances expounded by focusing on the importance of words in the early stages of a child's development and eventual success in school and life. "Words are noises pregnant with meaning" and children need to learn and use them by reading to them or having them read at least 30 minutes a day, in addition to their reading time at school and home work. The Tinian women are

committed to being a part of the children's intellectual growth as well as in their physical and emotional needs.

Equally dynamic were the presentations of Dr. Natividad, a professor from the University of Guam, Guam Legislature Speaker Judy Won Pat, and Victoria Lola DeLeon Guerrero on Guam's experience with the military build-up and saving the village of Pagat, a Chamorro ancestral place from take-over by the military for live range/artillery training activities.

Other presenters included Dr.

Glenda George-Concepcion, CGC clinical supervisor, who spoke on the different parenting styles and its perception from different cultural influences and Lawrence Duponcheel, secretary for the Tinian Cattlemen's Association, and NMC CREES staff, who discussed the possible impact of militarization on cattle and crop productions.

Tanya King, a member of the Public School System Board of Education commented that "the presentations and the discussion in this conference are unequivocally the most thought-provok-

ing out of all the conferences I have ever attended, and I attended many of them."

15<sup>th</sup> Tinian Municipal Council executive director Joe P. Cruz said, "The information shared in this conference was powerful—very powerful." The resident director for the Department of Labor, Jay San Nicolas, said, "I did not know what to expect when I first came to this conference, but after hearing Dr. Betances speak about the role of men as full partners with equal responsibility in the family in this day and age, I now think

that I need to stop thinking like a man".

The Tinian women will be collaborating with the Office of the Mayor and with all individuals, but especially with the young people to thoroughly review the Environmental Impact Study due for release this Friday, April 3, 2015.

Copies of the CD of the conference will be available for sale. Clips will be published on Youtube and subscribers may download copies for a fee through Youtube. Detailed information will be announced

following the final editing of the video.

The Tinian women wish to extend their gratitude to all sponsors and donors of their events and look forward to building a strong partnership with the local businesses, government, and members of the Tinian community. After all, we must leave the conference, remembering words inspired by Drs. Betances and Souder, of the added value collaboration can yield in bringing autonomous agencies together in working towards a common goal. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, middle, Guam Legislature Speaker Judy Wonpat, left, and 15th Tinian Municipal Council chair Reynaldo M. Cing.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Tinian Jr./Sr. High School teacher Moneka Deoro, left, Victoria Lola-Deleon Guerrero, middle, setting up for presentation with the assistance of tech information staff, right.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Tinian Sr./Jr. High School students asking questions.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Guam Legislature Speaker Judy Wonpat is greeted by the vice chairman of the 15th Tinian Municipal Council, Diana H. Borja, during a conference that highlighted island's celebration of Women's Month last March 30 and 31 at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Tinian Sr./Jr. High School students taking notes.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Dr. Lisa Natividad presenting "Militarizing the Marianas: Navigating the Currents of the U.S. Empire."

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 7, 2011

### Suspect in Shirley's burglary gets 6-month sentence

One of the suspects who burglarized the building of Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe entered a guilty plea as part of a plea bargain and was sentenced yesterday to six months in prison. Theodore O. Pehnos, 23, pleaded guilty to burglary on Wednesday. He was sentenced to two years in prison, all suspended except for six months, with credit for time served. After completing his sentence on May 14, 2011, Pehnos will be placed on probation for three years and required to pay a \$1,000 fine, court costs, and probation fees. Pehnos was also ordered to perform 100 hours of community service, pay restitution to the victim in an amount to be determined at a later hearing, and write a letter of apology to the victim.

### Delivery man beaten up, stabbed, robbed

A deliveryman was beaten up, stabbed, and robbed by one of three persons at a store in Chalan Kanoa on Tuesday at noon. The victim, a 43-year-old Chinese national, required 31 stitches for two deep lacerations on the left forearm. His wallet containing \$400 cash and driver's license was stolen, according to NMI Crime Stoppers Program coordinator Jason Tarkong yesterday. Saipan

Tribune learned that the victim is Hua Ming Zhang, a driver/delivery man of Feng Ze Corp. The first suspect was described as a local man in his early 20's, about 5'6" tall, medium built, with dark hair tied in the back, and wearing a black tank top and shorts. The suspect's two companions were described as possibly teenage boys.

April 7, 2008

### 2 employees allegedly steal cases of Spam through hole in the wall

Two store employees allegedly stole 50 cases of Spam by making a hole on the wall that separates the store's warehouse and their living quarters. Abe Sahagun Ladrangan, 24, and Jin Xuan Zhe, 26, were arrested Saturday for theft. At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona imposed a \$5,000 cash bail each for the defendants' temporary liberty. Detective Joaquin I. DeLeon Guerrero said the victim identified the two employees as the suspects after conducting an in-house investigation. The victim called the police on March 8.

### Status petition garners over 700 signatures

The Human Dignity Movement has collected over 700 signatures for a petition that seeks to obtain a more permanent immigration status for long-term guest workers. The petition, which aims to collect 5,000 signatures, will be forwarded to federal government agencies to urge them to establish federal permanent status and an "eventual pathway to citizenship for the legal long-term guest workers, for parents of U.S. citizen children who live and work in the CNMI and for those new guest workers that the government

will need to invite to the U.S. to perform the jobs that many U.S. citizens in the CNMI shun or are not trained to perform."

April 7, 2000

### Court clears Bellas of misconduct charges

Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan has cleared Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas of charges of misconduct and improprieties, saying there is no sufficient evidence to conduct an investigation into the latter's actions. He junked the complaint filed by Rep. Stanley T. Torres asking the Supreme Court to take disciplinary actions against Judge Bellas who came under fire for his actions during the last elections and even his conduct outside the office. According to the SC chief, this matter does not merit a need to conduct further investigation based on the affidavits submitted by both parties.

### Battle over Hillblom estate nears end

After almost five years of fierce legal battle, the qualified heir claimants and the Larry L. Hillblom Foundation have finally agreed to settle the remaining assets of the Hillblom estate, leading to the closure of the lengthy heirship case. Superior Court Judge Pro Tem Alexandro C. Castro is expected to approve today what the parties called the Global Settlement Agreement amounting to over \$65 million which was a product of various meetings held in California, Hawaii and Guam. The agreement describes in detail how the assets, cash and non-cash, will be divided and provide payment for obligations of the estate. Once Judge Castro gives his seal of approval on the agreement, the money will be distributed on May 11, 2000.



# Tinian community celebrates Easter 2015

The Tinian Loves to Read Initiative was launched last Friday, April 3, at the Children's Park with Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas reading out loud to the children during the Easter celebration. After the reading, the mayor asked the children, "Does Tinian love to read?" and the children responded jubilantly with a loud "yes!"

The 15th Tinian Municipal Council, in collaboration with the Office of the Mayor, Tinian women, Gineftao I Manmo'na (GIMM), the Tinian Jr./Sr High School National Honor Society, Art Club, as well as other members of the community assisted in making this year's Easter Egg Hunt happen. Having revitalized the Children's Park in the Feb. 21 Phase I Cleanup with the U.S. Air Force, several in the community later expressed high hopes in using it as one of the venues for the reading sessions.

Other activities for this year's Easter Egg Hunt included face painting, beads, drawing and water-color painting, zoo pet-



DEBORAH FLEMING  
Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, right, is assisted by Zania Fleming, left, in the reading session. The 2015 Easter celebration coincided with Tinian Loves to Read Initiative.



DEBORAH FLEMING

The petting zoo of the 2015 Easter celebration was an instant hit.

ting, and various other games with over 150 children and parents in attendance. At 10am, the field was opened for egg hunting and almost all the children were able to find plastic eggs with candy treats or money in them.

Several of the children expressed how much fun they were having. "I've never tried painting before, so I really like that it was part of today," expressed 8-year-old Lad S. Palacios as he dipped his paintbrush into the paint tray.

"Even though I didn't find any eggs today, I liked that there were games and that we could play in the park," said Jianna C. Cruz, as she happily hands one of the staff a butterfly drawing she had finished painting.

Equally touching was little Jarry Su when he meekly offers one of the two eggs he had found to one of the volunteers after overhearing she didn't partake in the egg hunt.



DEBORAH FLEMING

One of the younger participants of Tinian's 2015 Easter celebration at the island's Children's Park has his face painted to resemble the Easter Bunny last Friday.

"It was so much fun today—thank you!" yelled Brayden S. Iglecias as he sprinted back to his waiting parents when the festivities drew to a close.

It was indeed a beautiful sight to behold in seeing so much participation and collaboration come together in making one of this year's Easter Egg Hunt



DEBORAH FLEMING

A young girl takes part in beads-making activity.

a great success for the children and the entire community. When the community comes together, the children and the fam-

ily benefits. This lesson needs to be at the forefront at all times the guiding principle for our community. (PR)



DEBORAH FLEMING

Several children enjoy watercolor painting with their parents close by.



DEBORAH FLEMING

Over 150 children and parents attended Tinian's 2015 Easter celebration.



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
editor@saipantribune.comMark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Learning from Atlanta's shame

Children learn what to do—and what not to do—by watching adults. Nowhere is that truer than in the classroom, with teachers serving as role models for students.

In Atlanta on Wednesday, however, the city's schoolchildren learned an important lesson by watching what a jury said about some of the school district's former educators.

It said they had cheated. Eleven former Atlanta Public Schools educators were convicted of racketeering for their roles in one of the most brazen and pervasive school cheating scandals ever uncovered. They could face years in prison. Another 21 Atlanta educators already had reached plea deals with prosecutors, admitting their roles in the wrongdoing.

Prosecutors said the district's superintendent, Beverly Hall, set performance targets and threatened principals and teachers if students' test scores didn't reach set goals. So teachers inflated students' test scores to make it seem that the school district was excelling. It wasn't.

The cheating lasted for so many years that one teacher told an investigator: "We considered it part of our jobs."

The cheaters reaped bonuses and kept their jobs. Hall, accused of creating "a culture of fear, intimidation and retaliation," reaped national plaudits. The American Association of School Administrators named her superintendent of the year in 2009. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan hosted her at the White House.

Hall died before she could stand trial. She insisted she had done nothing wrong. The jury's verdict, and those plea deals, make that impossible to believe.

As the scandal unfolded, some critics of standardized testing tried to deflect blame. They said the emphasis on high-stakes standardized tests pushed educators to cheat. The jury wisely didn't buy that argument.

Trust is so basic to the function of public education that we don't talk about it much—whether teachers are evaluating students fairly, whether parents know the testing process is fair, whether administrators run their districts with integrity.

Atlanta's educators demolished that trust—and in the process deprived some students of honest evaluations of how their educations were proceeding.

Those educators then lied to the nation about Atlanta's supposedly superior school system—but more important, they lied to those children about their academic progress.

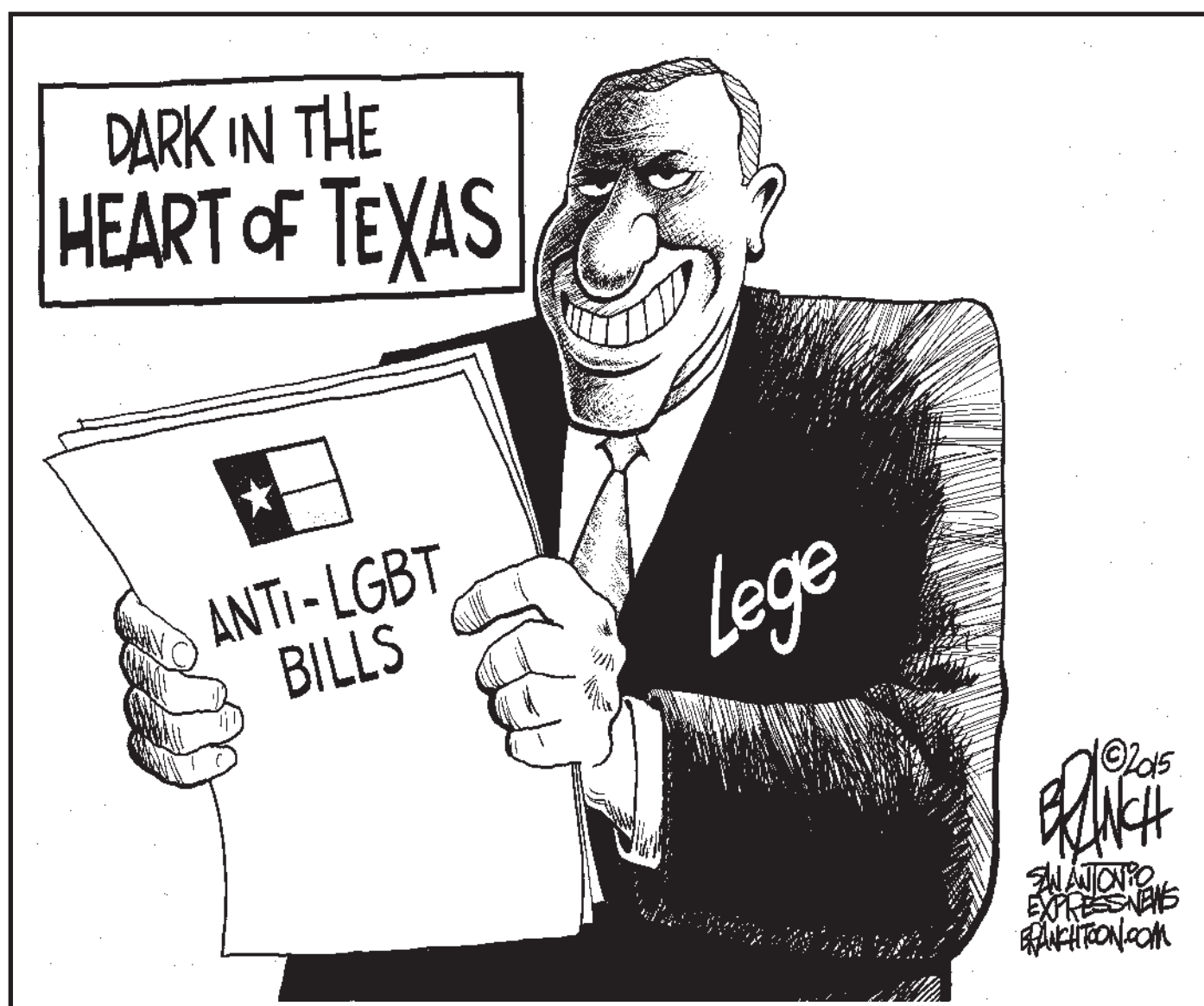
Recall that in announcing the indictments in 2013, Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard highlighted the case of a third-grader who failed a benchmark exam. The girl was held back but soon passed another assessment test.

The girl's mother "knew something was wrong (with the second result) but was told by school officials that the child simply was a good test-taker," The Associated Press reported. The girl advanced, but when she reached ninth grade, she was reading at a fifth-grade level.

There's no undoing the damage inflicted on untold numbers of children here. Those students can't be reimbursed for their lost opportunities to learn.

But at least today's young Atlantans learn a different lesson: If you cheat, you can demolish your reputation and your career. You cheat no one more than yourself.

(c)2015 Chicago Tribune



## Easter Sunday live

My *Saturday Night Live* is usually dry (too far to walk to the grocery store for the beer) and too dreary (save the rowdy Saturday beer parties at the other end of Finasisu Terraces, two facing buildings whose acoustics and echoes outclasses any cathedral in Europe for the resonance of its whispers).

I do not watch television save check the weather channel, nor do I have kids who still need to be driven to their chosen sports—basketball or ballet, baseball or basket weaving, so my Saturdays ear plugged are heavenly! But Sunday this past weekend's Easter came out live, in living Carolinian color.

Sunday stretches the leg muscles with a walk from Finasisu near NMC at As Terlaje to Rte. 306 down the decline towards the P.O. at Chalan Kanoa. Tun Apa Rd. is what I consider a walkway. It does not have a middle line to regulate vehicular traffic but, of course, cars with low chassis V-8 engines revving up like they're in the Daytona 500 terrorize the dogs and the chickens, and ignore the pedestrians. But Sunday's traffic was sparse as the pleasant day attracted many to the beach.

Getting down to CK, we went into Lino Olopai's trailer north of Triple J's Sandy Beach Apartel by the lagoon. Our 70-some-year-old navigator friend from Chuuk (previously spelled Truk) actually took his dinghy sailboat into the waters until his nephew Jerome and Uncle Pete came to ride the sailboat. We watched them secure the catamaran sails.

Lino is older than the uncle. That's how the Carolinian community kinship of matrilineal relations stretching far and wide was explained to me; degrees of cousinhood do not exist. They are all plainly just cousins—uncles, nieces, etc. That's like me with nephews much older than I, my eldest cousin a year younger than my Dad who was the runt of the litter of 11 children.

I wrote about Lino's reflections in his book, *The Rope of Tradition*. The beach front of his trailer is a park to many. I discovered on Sunday that Lino might miss his *mei-mei* who is in *Dong Bei's* Jilin for the spring holidays but he has no reason to be lonely on the weekend with all the attention he gets from relatives.

The nephew asked to sail this weekend with his friends and they brought meat and marinade with them to zing on the coals with the packaged hot dogs for a meal later in the afternoon. But the sailboat rudder scraped the lagoon bottom at low tide so the sailing had to wait until the tide came back up.

Lino put on his *mawr-mawr* for two other social events of the day. He would not hear of us leaving. We were part of his household Sunday. So I carried the sodas and he carried the beer into the gatherings.

By JAIME VERGARA  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at [pinoypanda2031@aol.com](mailto:pinoypanda2031@aol.com).



We were at a Peters' family celebration for George's birthday, his wife Malua an acquaintance. The event was by the Carolinian Affairs huts in Garapan and Lino was one of the revered elders with no shortage of hand kissers (*mano* of the right hand engrained in Hispanic-influenced societies, *adab* in Arabia) from kin, except amiable host Anthony who gave the *abrazo*.

The Carolinian singing, the ukes and guitar playing, were a sheer delight as my Indo-Malay-Austronesian ears recognized familiar sounds. Then "Beyond the Reefs" was strummed and sung. I was sailing on Micronesian atolls. Legislator Ray Tebuteb and Sapuro Rayphand's presence added to Geh-or-geh (George) Pelikan, a familiar face from the PSS Central's accounting office.

We proceeded to Lino's brother Ralph's residence up the Lau-Lau slopes above the National Office Supply north of Chalan Kanoa, a forest ranch. There I met a Norita whose wife led the meal grace, and a Ralph's progeny who introduced his beautiful young children. It was a smaller and intimate family celebration but I got to hear more of Chuukese history around the table, including how a priest lost his life for disrespecting Carolinian tradition.

Back to Lino's place in time to be offered again meat sizzled at the BBQ pit a few hours before sundown. This time, a dozen cars were in the yard and Lino took a handful on the Catamaran while I finally got to wet my snorkel.

A friend recalls that while working in Kuwait, the *Pinoy* construction laborers and house workers had no problems having fun and hanging out together. On the other hand, Chinese workers never thought they earned enough while the Filipinos remitted home half of earnings and spent the other half partying on their day offs.

Carolinians in the Marianas come from the same social DNA, metaphorically and physically, who were out on the beach also Sunday by Saipan's shore. Not a few of the Carolinians also have spouses of *Pinoy* descent.

Between the three BBQs, I expect to add two kilos on the scale in the morning. No matter, it was a darn good Easter Sunday.



# Our people with autism in the CNMI

By **THOMAS M. THORNBURGH**  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Since 2008, I have been working closely with folks from the Autism Society of the CNMI, better known as, AS-CNMI. In this time, I have come to know many of our people with autism. It may surprise you to learn that our people with autism have contributed to the CNMI in many ways. It is truly inspiring to see them rise above their disability to live their lives more fully. Here are three examples of our people with autism from the ASCNMI who have in their own way contributed to our islands:

The first is a male teenager who will remain anonymous for now, and has graduated from high school and is now going to college. He has been one of the faces of ASCNMI and has been willing to collaborate and put his face forward on television, and lend his voice to radio interviews over the past years to talk about autism. His parents are staunch supporters of ASCNMI and have also grown with this young man through ups and downs, but most importantly, together as a family. Finally, his work on clay is amazing and real to life. He continues his studies and support of ASCNMI nowadays.

Another fine example is another teenager who has been through a lot of tough times in school and has just recently graduated from

high school. He is nonverbal and is about six feet tall with the build of a football player. While he was in school, his parents advocated with him in collaboration with a disability rights group to ensure that the Special Education space at his high school was not reduced as planned, but rather increased exponentially. His parents also brought their concerns to Delegate Kilili's office and advocated for more space. Soon after this, we learned of another school being built close by his old school. Finally, this young man, through hard work, walked up to the podium and received his diploma on graduation day all by himself.

Finally, the third person with autism I got to know through AS-CNMI is a teenager who has moved away from the CNMI with her mother in search for postsecondary education. Her name is Ms. Larissa Reyes. Prior to her leaving, she was the VOICE for so many of our people with autism and other disabilities on Saipan. She and another young man, John Demapan, led our team to a Summit for Self Advocacy in Honolulu in 2012 to help jump start a grass roots self advocacy group here in the CNMI as part of a nationwide push by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities or ADD. She and John did a great job leading us, but she stole the show when she sang a song by the *Little Mermaid* called *Part of that world*. The crowd cried, laughed and applauded. She spoke eloquently and sang the song just as you would hear Ariel sing it. Her message prior

to the song was that because she has autism, she sometimes feels like she does not belong. She wants people with autism to live life and be part of this world.

Help us make autism part of your Saipan world, by coming out this Saturday, April 11, 2015, to the Last Command Post in Marpi at 3pm for the Annual Hot Dog Walk and Family Fun Day. You walk 1.5 miles north of Last Command Post until the road splits into the Suicide and the Grotto roads, then return and get hot dogs and water to enjoy the area where we will be until 6pm that day. Please bring your own water bottle. We will have water dispensers, but no water bottles for the sake of our environment.

Last, but not least, please join us for Quiz Nite 4 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa from 6pm to 10pm for trivia fun questions, and dinner is included. Each person pays \$25 for dinner and an opportunity to form a team to try and take the first place trophy this year. Mr. Mike White and his family won the first two Quiz Nites, but Kagman High School teachers came out strong during Quiz Nite 3 to take it away from Mr. Mike White. Teams can be one person, or if you have friends, coworkers or family, you may want their brainpower as well to answer the 50 questions from five categories. For tickets please call NMPASI at 235-7273 or 4, CDD at 664-7001, or UCEDD at NMC at 234-3690 extension 1019.

Happy Autism Awareness Month to all our people in the CNMI!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# What CNMI children want most from leaders!

There is always a lot of talk in politics about our children and every politician swears they support education but the reality is that our children have literally been political footballs on too many issues and the quality of their education continues to decline. Our children, especially at MHS, are crying out for help and I haven't heard or seen a single politician coming to their rescue. Our children tell us what they want all the time but the problem is too much of what they are telling us goes in one ear and out the other and this phenomenon is not limited to our leaders. Many parents also ignore some of their child's request, thinking they know better.

Having taught for over 24 years, I have a pretty good idea what our children want from us but the question is how many of us are really listening to our youth and what they want for the CNMI and their future, especially our leaders. FYI leaders and parents, what our children want most is to live the American dream of having the opportunity and finding real careers with prosperity in the CNMI and not having to get on a plane to find a career and prosperity in Idaho, Oregon, Washington and other states. Our children want the CNMI to be more modern and less archaic.

Our children want see opportunities, activities, and events in the CNMI that are in the mainland. Our children are also smarter than their parents as they want us old folks to stop smoking cigarettes. Our children want us to eat healthy. Our children don't want us to use drugs or to drink alcohol. Our children don't want their parents, aunts and uncles to argue and fight, especially when they are drunk. Our children want the CNMI to have industry(s) that offers skilled careers and high paying jobs, not minimum wage jobs. Our children want to stay in the CNMI to find prosperity but our leaders continue to fail to deliver and

are even fighting more for alien workers than our youth. Our children want to be proud of the CNMI beyond culture but there is nothing to be proud about as we are dead last in catching up with modern times on too many issues and in too many areas. Our children want a four-year university so they don't have to leave but we haven't even started discussing where NMC should be headed because we are too busy just trying to keep the school afloat with funding being the primary challenge. Our children want a lot of things from us and the CNMI but as usual money plays a big role. So if you don't know of a sure way for the CNMI to get the funding we need to make the CNMI what our children want for their future, then you need to support the moratorium. You can see first-hand the millions, the careers and the prosperity of the marijuana industry under full legalization and what it can do to solve the many needs of our children and the future of the CNMI. We owe it to our youth to at least try and start a new industry with full legalization under the moratorium.

FYI, readers, if you were to ask our youth which would they prefer to see their parents use—alcohol or marijuana—an overwhelming majority will tell you marijuana with comments like “at least marijuana doesn't make people crazy and act stupid and wanting to fight.” Our children already know marijuana is better and safer than alcohol for recreational use because we (educators, good parents, peers, social scientists, doctors and the media) have already educated much of society about alcohol being worse than marijuana, which is why it defies logic and common sense to be against legalization in this day and times. The average child, once they get to the fifth and six grades, knows about marijuana. Our youth also know that marijuana along with al-

cohol and tobacco are not for them until they are adults and the overwhelming majority will accept this expectation and won't smoke pot. Finally, our society needs to take note that our children are the ones out front leading to stop drug, alcohol and tobacco use among our youth and adults. Our youth are even doing commercials like: “Don't let underage drinking ruin your future” but there can't and won't be any specific marijuana commercials of “Don't let underage smoking ruin your education and your future” until it is legalized. Marijuana needs to be out in the open as being high in class is not worth wasting your education and your future career and life over, which is the message we should be sending to our youth—not marijuana is illegal and that's it because our youth are smart and know better!

Social scientist are already predicting that our future generations will see far more smokers of marijuana and fewer alcoholics as our youth are already well aware of the fact that alcohol is far more dangerous and detrimental to society and socializing than marijuana. In fact, there is an entirely new phenomenon in America with millions of marijuana smokers who do not drink alcohol. Get educated and be informed as marijuana will eventually become the leading future vice of adult recreational stimulants. The marijuana industry is predicted to equal and even surpass the alcohol industry that is presently valued at over \$200 billion a year. The marijuana industry is the economic miracle the CNMI has been waiting on and wanting since the death of the garment industry. Seize the moment CNMI and give us all a chance to live the American dream!

**Ambrose M Bennett**  
*Kagman, Saipan*

# What is public interest?

The word “public” has emerged in our discourse of recent months with some doubts whether that speaker or writer within our Legislature had made good to the meaning of the word in the context it was used. Elected officials in our CNMI government has been the Rubicon in translating meaning or confusion as they eloquently made references of the word either as a “noun” or “adjective” in their intended messages. In just about every introductory part of bills introduced or approved statutes of recent days made references to the phrase “in the public interest,” but made very little room expressing what this part of the introductory description really means. What is public interest, or is the interest of the public known and could be expressed in none controversial terms and justified by factual empirical information that purports the law of the bill or codified law? What and who is the “public” referred to in bills and codified laws affecting the lives of people in the CNMI?

We have public hearings to satisfy the due process aspect of the making and shaping of proposed laws that would eventually become what the public policy about issues like public lands, public education, public works, public health, public easements, public transportation, public safety, and other traditional governmental operations and services. The “public” in all these areas draws specific interest of special groups that are moved and engaged more vocal efforts advocating their guarded positions than others in forming and pursuing the “public interest” which may defer with what politicians based their public policy decisions.

More and more of our elected officials rely on public opinions

polls and hearsay that runs afoul with other credible and substantive data which are conflicting and contradicting with the threshold of what really the “public interest” in consequential public policies. Hence, strange as it is, our leaders almost predictably say something about “public” in more context than ever before, had lost almost all sense of what the word might actually mean. The use of the word “public” comes in every direction and forms the ordinary person unnaturally assume that it must mean something. When any elected official could not articulate in convincing and clarifying personal capacity about his/her conception and understanding of what the real and truthful “public interest” is in a bill or codified law, we have a problem.

This should tell us that the “public” dimension of our lives is losing its vitality because our elected officials in our CNMI Legislature are waning confidence in their ability to govern with the laws that passed through both chambers of this branch of our government. And, above all, it would not matter that the “public” and “public interest” referenced in a bill or codified law gives rise to specific and only meaning, what makes the difference would be the subsequent statutory construction that follows, in which the law is subject to opinion by the court, repeal by the legislature, or consistently acted upon by executive performance. If the “public interest” and “public” could not be intelligently articulated by some of our elected officials in our legislature, then why would one even vote on a bill absent full understanding who the “public” is and what is the “public interest”? Sadly, domination

by that smallest “public” in our CNMI community particularly our few elitists in public offices, the educated, informed, intelligent, wealthy people, and mix that juggle the “public interest” into actionable and transmissible realities, and ended up being viewed by our community (common unity) as preferable to universal stupidity, or even democracy. More than 99% of us are out of the game plan, because it is acceptable to let things sail down river until one could hopefully point out that something is not right and reversal of future directions will be the new order of the day at that point in time.

Hence, the only key questions to all these is to challenge our lawmakers by asking who the “public” and what the “public interest” being represented in and by the law based on factual and empirical data. Rational and rhetorical assumptions are adage for, with, and to the fools. We, as recipients of the laws drafted by our lawmakers and passed into laws, deserve a more explained and justified public policies that represents the “public” and the “public interest” of 99% of the community (common unity) who would never see and hear the day light of the issues being discussed and put to order for our benefit. Hence, the ultimate value that counts is: what is the “public good”? Which is the subject of subsequent discussions for your readers, and, are ordained and established in the CNMI Constitution.


**Francisco R. Agulto**  
*Kannat Tabla, Saipan*



# The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian


TODAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲86° ▼75°


WEDNESDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲86° ▼75°


THURSDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼75°


FRIDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼75°

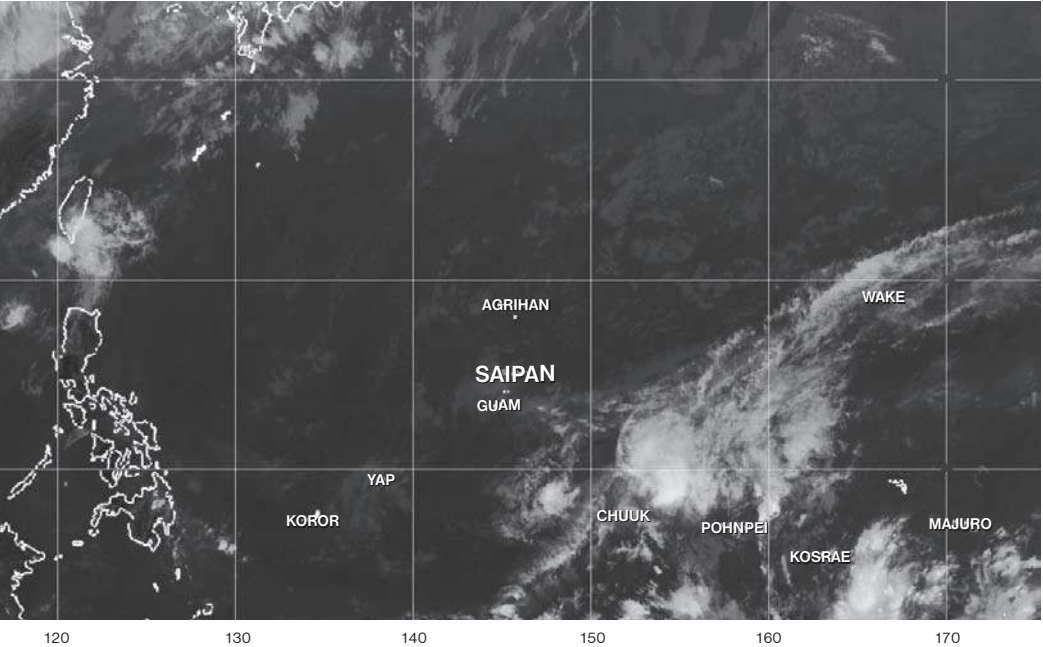
SATURDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image




PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Depression Haishen is centered 130 miles northwest of Weno Island in Chuuk near 9N151E, nearly stationary with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found east of the center within 120 miles of a line from 10N151E to 10N163E. Additional scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring west of the center within 90 miles of 8N146E. For more information on Tropical Depression Haishen see warnings issued by The Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW and advisories issued by The National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM. A near-equatorial trough meanders eastward from 4N130E through Tropical Depression Haishen, then continues southeastward to end South of Kwajalein near EQ168E. Patches of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of Chuuk, Kosrae and Pohnpei south of a line from 1N149E to 3N155E to 4N168E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present across Butaritari and Tarawa Atolls south of a line from 4N172E to 1N176E. A cold front extends southwestward from southwest of midway through 23N180E to south of Wake Island near 18N167E, then continues as a shear line to pass near Guam at 12N146E before ending east of Koror near 7N138E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are found along and up to 120 Miles northwest of this boundary to 144E then up to 160 miles northwest of the shear line from 140E to 138E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼83
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼81

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲58	▼37
Hong Kong	Windy	▲80	▼62
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼39
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼49
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼73
Melbourne	Rain	▲63	▼54
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼72
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼51
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼47
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼38
Pusan	Cloudy	▲56	▼44
Rome	Sunny	▲60	▼43
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲58	▼43
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼49
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲52	▼35
Tokyo	Rain	▲42	▼42
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲76	▼59



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
4:28 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
9:55 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:45 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
11:09 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:09 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:09 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:31 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	8:48 PM	7:52A M
Wednesday	9:40 PM	8:37 AM
Thursday	10:33 PM	9:25 AM
Friday	11:26 PM	10:16 AM
Saturday		11:10 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:15pm	3:55pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	12:55pm	1:45pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:05pm	3:55pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:15pm	2:50pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:20pm	3:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ623	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:55am	4:25pm	3, 5, 6
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	3, 4	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ624	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
7C3401	5:25pm	9:10pm	3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ704/623	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, ,3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:30pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:25pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:45pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:15pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA5078/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
OZ624/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				UA184/5038	11:30pm	2:35pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
				UA184/5077	11:30pm	2:35pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5041	11:30pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
				UA184/5043	11:30pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:40am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM	UA180/5071	9:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:15pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:05pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
OZ624/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5041	9:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
				UA180/5043	9:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.								
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat



# ‘Strong heart’—somewhere outside of Charlottesville, VA

By **JIM RAYPHAND**  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

*In remembrance of my “Older Brother,” Pastor Wichap, who succumbed to cancer recently—half a world away from his island home, Lukunor. And, in honor of the countless people who have lost their lives to cancer.*

Somewhere on the outskirts of Charlottesville, Virginia, lies what remains of a young immigrant from the island of Lukunor, our family atoll on the eastern-most edge of the Mortlock islands in the Federated States of Micronesia. He was the firstborn boy—“Ate Fon” (loosely translated “The Special Son”)—to my father’s only sister. He was 46 years old and father to five half-Virginian kids, the youngest still being in third grade and the oldest already of college age.

## Grand opening for USCIS office in Barrigada Guam

**BARRIGADA, Guam**—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will celebrate the grand opening of its new field office and application support center Friday morning, April 10, 2015, with a ribbon cutting ceremony, a naturalization ceremony, and tours of the facility.

USCIS Regional Director Carolyn L. Muzyka will conduct the ribbon cutting ceremony, and will be joined by USCIS District Director David G. Gulick and PacAir General Manager Frank P. Arriola.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will be followed by a naturalization ceremony, at which 15 immigrants will be sworn in as new U.S. citizens. Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood,

## Draft EIS public meetings to be held on Saipan and Tinian

On April 3, 2015 the Department of Defense published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement that evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the establishment of a series of live-fire ranges, training courses, and maneuver areas in the CNMI (Tinian and Pagan) to reduce existing joint service training deficiencies and meet U.S. Pacific Command Service Components’ unfilled unit and combined level training requirements in the Western Pacific.

As a result, a public comment period is now open until June 2, 2015. The DoD encourages the public to participate in the upcoming public meetings where attendees will be able to ask questions directly of DoD officials and subject matter experts and submit comments that will help shape the Final EIS/OEIS

Over 10 years had passed since I last saw him, but we spoke briefly over the phone about a month before his untimely demise—the family had tasked me with asking the painful, end-of-life questions. Most notably, “Where do you want your final resting place to be?”

“I’ve been fighting this for over a year now, so I’m kind of in a hurry to move on (my translation to English), but I think my heart is too strong,” he said with a genuine though labored chuckle. “My body is of no use anymore—they took out my stomach and now they want to cut my liver. I fall asleep every night thinking it’s my last, but then I still keep waking up. My heart just won’t give up.”

It was the summer of 1988. I was returning to Charlottesville for my sophomore year at a local prep/boarding school, privileged beyond my worth. Four

U.S. District Court of Guam, will preside over the ceremony.

The new office, located at 770 East Sunset Blvd., Suite 185, Barrigada, Guam, will provide a range of immigration services, including naturalization interviews, lawful permanent resident processing, and fingerprinting and photographic services. The office is based on a national model for new USCIS office locations throughout the country.

Members of the public can find additional information about the Guam USCIS office here. For more information about USCIS and its programs, please visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) or follow us on Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis) and the USCIS blog The Beacon. (**USCIS**)

and inform the DoD’s decision. The public meetings are:

Wednesday, April 29, 2015, from 5pm to 8pm, Saipan Southern High School Cafeteria  
Thursday, April 30, 2015, from 5pm to 8pm, Tinian Junior Senior High School Cafeteria

Friday, May 1, 2015, from 5pm to 8pm, Garapan Elementary School

The public meetings will be open house style with informational posters and materials on the Draft EIS/OEIS, including a period of time for attendees to provide verbal comments during a public hearing. Written comments will be accepted at the meetings and throughout the comment period.

For additional information about the proposed action and the associated EIS process please visit our official website at [www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com](http://www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com). (**PR**)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Childhood picture of the author on the left and Pastor on right on their island, Lukunor.

of my Mortlockese cousins and childhood playmates—each of who had never, prior to this trip, left the ocean-locked islands of Micronesia—had taken the trip with me in search of the “American Dream.”

The mad rush to find jobs and a place to stay began almost immediately—not as simple as it sounds for a bunch of teenage foreigners with very limited English skills and zero jobhunting experience. Long story short, we negotiated for and put some money down on a decrepit, two-bedroom house within walking distance of the University of Virginia and three of my cousins (the fourth would opt to return home) were offered jobs

in the distribution warehouse of the *Daily Progress*, the town’s local newspaper. Each would be paid \$3.75 an hour (if my memory serves me right)... far more money than any of us had ever been paid for anything to that point in our lives. For a time, I too would work with them (as a part-time weekend warrior) on the graveyard shift to supplement some of our mutual expenses.

At the onset of our move to Charlottesville, school was the primary goal for all of us; in fact, each of my cousins would enroll for classes at the local community college. But, sometime between the long, night-

time hours at work (necessary just to afford rent, food, etc.) and the suffocating cycle of remedial English classes needed to advance into credited courses, life took hold, school faded away like a dream at dawn and my cousins took their respective places in the footholds of Charlottesville’s rank and file.

For two of them, Pastor and Gabe (the closest of friends since our childhood days of running around naked on the shores of our home islands), the *Daily Progress* would be their bread, butter and home for the subsequent 20-plus years; in fact, Gabe retains his job there still.

His answer was pretty clear-cut. “Am I supposed to get on the plane as I’m looking back at these kids? That’s torture, Man. I believe it would be easier for everyone if I just stay here... There’s a place along the highway, so I can wave anytime our family drives past,” he said with what I imagined to be a big smile on the other end of the phone.

He would later apologize to his mother (who made her first trip to America to be at his side) that he could not accompany her back home because he needed to stay where his children could visit him.

After 25-plus years (since a few days of arriving in Char-

lottesville) of working multiple jobs, his last days were spent in the home he bought with and for his family—the American Dream realized—surrounded by various members of our family who came in from all corners of the United States and some from as far back as our home islands.

His coffin would be lowered into the ground of a cold Virginia cemetery at the hands of three generations of direct descendants from our Grandmother’s line.

Somewhere outside of Charlottesville, Virginia, lies the strong heart of our Special Son. He stays for the love of his kids, his greatest heart’s desire. There also takes root a new breed of immigrant sons and daughters to the Virginia Commonwealth. May God bless his soul and may God bless the United States of America.

For more, please feel free to contact NMPASI at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7275 [fax/tty] or on-line at [www.nmpasi.org](http://www.nmpasi.org). Also, feel free to contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at (670) 682-0050 or [www.ccamarianas.org](http://www.ccamarianas.org)/email: [cca@ccamarianas.org](mailto:cca@ccamarianas.org)—please support our March Against Cancer in recognition of March as Cancer Awareness Month.

## Increase in IUU fishing in Palau, FSM discussed



JOINT REGION MARIANAS

A multilateral conference was held in Guam on March 17, regarding increasing Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau.

**ASAN, Guam**—On March 17, a multilateral conference was held in Guam regarding increasing Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of Palau (ROP).

Upon reviewing case studies of increasing IUU boats from Southeast Asia and South Asia illegally fishing in the FSM and ROP economic exclusion zones, the

delegations forged an understanding of IUU emerging issues and a process for collaborative short and long term solutions.

The delegations committed to expand regional partnerships in combating IUU violations in small island nations.

Participants included the U.S. Department of State, American Embassy Colonia, American Embassy Koror, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. military, Australian

Embassy for the Micronesian Region and delegations from FSM and ROP.

The U.S. delegation was led by U.S. Ambassador Doria Rosen (FSM) and U.S. Ambassador Amy Hyatt (ROP). The Australian delegation was led by Second Secretary and Consul Nikola Pejic. The FSM delegation was led by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert. The ROP delegation was led by Special

Assistant to the President Mr. Keobel Sakuma.

Observers included U.S. Pacific Command staff, Federal Bureau of Investigation Guam office, Australia’s Office of National Assessment, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Yap state government. The meeting was facilitated by the U.S. Defense Representative office for FSM and ROP. (**PR**)



# Business

## Tax refunds for many take hit or get bump from health law



In this photo taken March 31, 2015, William Preus stands in the backyard of his home in St. Petersburg, Fla.

AP

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—As the April 15 tax deadline nears, people who got help paying for health insurance under President Barack Obama's law are seeing the direct effect on their refunds—hundreds of dollars, for better or worse.

The law offers tax credits so people without access to job-based health insurance can buy private coverage. Because these subsidies are tied to income, consumers must accurately estimate what they will make for the coming year.

That's been a challenge for

millions of people.

Guess on the low side, get more help now with premiums, but owe money later at filing time. Overestimate income, expect bucks back from the taxman.

Many consumers may not have understood that is how it works when they signed up. Some experts caution that such complications could discourage uninsured people from getting covered.

Rob Tuck of Dublin, California, said he had anticipated a refund of about \$400 on his

2014 taxes. But that almost has been wiped out because he had to repay some of the subsidy. He changed jobs during the year, and his income went up a little.

Tuck, who works for a San Francisco area tech-support company, said he enrolled to avoid tax penalties for being uninsured, but feels penalized anyway now.

"I was expecting to get dinged a little bit, but I was actually kind of surprised when it came down that much," he said.

Kelsey Park started out 2014 in Dallas, earning good com-

missions by selling wedding gowns. She left for graduate school at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, and signed up for coverage through the law. She ended up overestimating her income because she didn't get another job as anticipated.

Park's tax refund came to \$2,500, partly because she had too much income tax withheld and partly because she received a smaller health care subsidy than she was entitled to.

"It was hard to estimate what I would be earning because I was transitioning in

life," said Park, who's studying for a master's degree in marketing. "I tend to overestimate because I don't want to have to pay back," she said.

The average refund is large enough to offset any repayment in most cases, according to the Treasury Department. The White House says the Affordable Care Act is working even better than anticipated.

But this is the first year that the complicated connections

between the law and the tax system are playing out for consumers.

Initial reports suggest a fairly even split between tax-return winners and losers.

Earlier in the filing season, tax preparation company H&R Block reported that 52 percent of its customers who got health insurance subsidies owed money back. Repayments averaged \$530, reducing expected refunds by 17 percent.

## Stay professional in face of upsetting workplace change

### YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE

Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics."



**Q** : Two days ago, I received an email from my manager saying that "Jenny," one of my co-workers, will now be reviewing everything I do. I am extremely unhappy about this change, which came as a complete surprise. In fact, I was so angry that I almost started to cry.

**Our boss loves Jenny and always agrees with her opinions. Even though Jenny and I have the same job title, my boss treats Jenny like her personal assistant. I actually do more work than Jenny, but that doesn't seem to matter.**

**I am extremely productive and conscientious, so being monitored by a co-worker feels humiliating. I can only assume that Jenny has been complaining about me in order to improve her own position. What can I do about this?**

**A:** Your boss must have missed the management lesson on communication, because sending this pronouncement via email was absolutely inexcusable. Bad news should always be delivered personally, and any halfway intelligent manager would realize that, from your perspective, this is a most unwelcome change.

Unfortunately, your cowardly boss has provided you with a conclusion, but no explanation. Therefore, the first order of business is to find out why this decision was made. Despite having a natural desire to stomp your feet and scream favoritism, you must control your emotions and make this inquiry in a calm, professional manner.

For example: "I wanted to ask you about the new process for reviewing my work. I can certainly run my reports by Jenny if you wish, but I was curious about the reason for the change. Are there some areas where I need to improve?"

Once you understand your manager's motivation, you can decide on the appropriate response. If she expresses concerns about your job performance, then you obviously need to address them. If she is delegating this task to lessen her workload, perhaps you can suggest some alternate strategies.

But if her objective is to prepare Jenny for promotion, you might as well just smile and say OK. After that, you can privately assess how this development may affect your own career decisions.

**Q: I don't understand why my co-worker never greets me at the beginning of the day. She walks right by my desk without saying "Good morning" or "How are you?" Other people have also expressed concern about this behavior. What's your opinion?**

**A:** People who are naturally sociable often find it puzzling when others are not. However, I can assure you that many perfectly normal folks don't make a habit of offering morning greetings to their colleagues. While that might be the friendly thing to do, it's simply not part of their personality.

If your reserved co-worker is otherwise pleasant and helpful, accept the fact that "good morning" is not in her vocabulary and just continue working when she passes by. Since she apparently acts the same towards everyone, her indifference is clearly not directed at you. She may simply have other things on her mind.

## Indiana faces long road to restore image after religious law

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—Indiana tourism agencies are rolling out campaigns emphasizing that everyone is welcome, but it might not be enough to quickly restore the state's battered image after a backlash over its religious objections law.

An uproar sparked by fears that the law would allow discrimination against gays and lesbians led a few convention organizers and performers to cancel events and some state and local governments to ban travel to the state last week. Revisions to the law's language have eased some of the criticism, but experts say the state could be dealing with a damaged reputation for years to come.

In a sign that Indiana is still under close scrutiny, hundreds of gay rights supporters marched to the site of the NCAA Final Four in Indianapolis on Saturday as college basketball fans were arriving for the games. The marches called for the state to go further and enshrine in its civil rights law

protection for gays and lesbians.

Chris Gahl, vice president of Visit Indy, the lead promoter for Indianapolis, said he has been in "full crisis mode" since the furor erupted after Gov. Mike Pence signed the law late last month.

Gahl said Visit Indy received

### IMF says Greece confirms it will repay loan due in April

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Greece's finance minister on Sunday told the International Monetary Fund chief that his country will repay a substantial loan from the organization that is due this week.

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde and Yanis Varoufakis met in Washington for an "informal discussion" on the debt-stricken nation's reform program, an IMF statement said. The Greek government has said Varoufakis will meet with U.S. Treasury officials Monday.

Greece is in difficult negotiations with creditors over its bailout program, which has delayed the disbursement of the final 7.2

more than 800 emails from people saying they were canceling trips for events such as the Indianapolis 500 or choosing a different vacation destination. The agency has been scrambling to prevent groups and businesses from either pulling out of negotiations for future conventions

billion euro (\$7.9 billion) aid tranche. That has led to a cash crunch, forcing the government to tap reserves.

Athens has been hoping for at least a partial release of the final bailout installment in order to avoid default and to pay salaries and pensions.

"We both agreed that effective cooperation is in everyone's interest," Lagarde said in the statement. "We noted that continuing uncertainty is not in Greece's interest."

Greece must repay a 450 million euro IMF loan installment on Thursday. Deputy finance minister Dimitris Mardas on Saturday told TV station Mega that Greece has the funds but it

or canceling upcoming events altogether.

Two groups, including the public employee union AFSCME, have canceled conventions, and Gahl said two others were on the fence. He put the economic impact of those events at a "healthy eight figures."

is up to the government to decide whether to pay.

Greece and its creditors have been negotiating which reforms it should enact to its economy to receive more funding.

Lagarde said discussions resume "promptly" on Monday between technical teams and authorities in Athens and in Brussels.

Since 2010, Greece has been dependent on rescue loans worth 240 billion euros from other eurozone countries and the IMF. Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras was elected in January on promises to abolish the deeply resented bailout conditions, which included deep spending cuts and tax hikes.



# Nation

## Obama defends Iran deal as 'once in a lifetime' opportunity

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama staunchly defended a framework nuclear agreement with Iran as a “once-in-a-lifetime opportunity” to prevent a bomb and bring longer-term stability to the Middle East. He insisted the U.S. would stand by Israel if it were to come under attack, but acknowledged that his pursuit of diplomacy with Tehran has caused strain with the close ally.

“It’s been a hard period,” Obama said in a week-end interview with Thomas Friedman, a columnist for The New York Times. He added that it is “personally difficult” for him to hear his administration accused of not looking out for Israel’s interests.

Now in his seventh year in office, Obama cast the Iran talks as part of a broader foreign policy doctrine that sees American power as a safeguard that gives him the ability to take calculated risks.

“We are powerful enough to be able to test these propositions without putting ourselves at risk,” he said, citing his overtures to Cuba and Myanmar as other examples of his approach.

The president’s comments come days after the U.S. and other world powers reached a tentative agreement to curb

Iran’s nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief. The framework cleared the way for negotiators to hammer out technical details ahead of a June 30 deadline for a final deal.

Obama argued that successful negotiations presented the most effective way to keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, but insisted he would keep all options on the table if Tehran were to violate the terms.



Obama

“I’ve been very clear that Iran will not get a nuclear weapon on my watch, and I think they should understand that we mean it,” Obama said in the interview published Sunday. “But

I say that hoping that we can conclude this diplomatic arrangement—and that it ushers a new era in U.S.-Iranian relations—and, just as importantly, over time, a new era in Iranian relations with its neighbors.”

The president said there are many details that still need to be worked out with the Iranians and cautioned that there would be “real political difficulties” in implementing an agreement in both countries. He reiterated his opposition to a legislation that would give the U.S. Congress final say in approving or rejecting a deal, but said he hoped to find a path to allow Congress to “express itself.”

The White House plans an aggressive campaign to sell the deal to Congress, as well as to skeptical Arab allies who

worry about Iran’s destabilizing activity in the region. The president has invited leaders of six Gulf nations to Washington

this spring and said he wanted to “formalize” U.S. assistance.

On the substance of the Iran framework agreement, Obama

outlined more specifics of how the U.S. would seek to verify that Tehran wasn’t cheating. He said there would be an “international mechanism” that would assess whether there needed to be an inspection at a suspicious site and could overrule Iranian objections.

The nuclear talks have marked a remarkable shift in the frozen relationship between the U.S. and Iran. It has become normal for officials from both countries to communicate and hold face-to-face meetings. Obama is yet to meet with Iranian President Hasan Rouhani, though they did speak on the phone. He has also exchanged letters with Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

## Indicted cop can’t recall shooting suspects from hood of car

CLEVELAND (AP)—His footprints were found on the hood of a beat-up Chevy Malibu that had been strafed by police gunfire, killing its two unarmed occupants after a high-speed chase over streets and freeways in and around Cleveland.

Yet Officer Michael Brelo told investigators he couldn’t remember standing on the hood and firing the final 15 rounds of a 137-shot barrage down into the windshield—even though a rookie cop told those same investigators that Brelo talked about it days afterward.

“It’s possible,” Brelo allowed when questioned by investigators two weeks after the November 2012 shooting, “because I was so terrified that I was going to get run over.”

“But I don’t recall that, sir.”

Brelo, 31, goes on trial Monday on two counts of voluntary manslaughter for the deaths of Timothy Russell, 43, and Malissa Williams, 30. He is the lone officer among the 13 who fired their weapons that night who is charged criminally because prosecutors say he stood on the hood and opened fire four seconds after the other officers had stopped shooting.

A judge—not a jury—will decide whether Brelo is guilty or innocent. He faces a maximum sentence of 25 years if convicted.

Brelo’s defense team has argued that all 49 rounds Brelo fired that night, including the last 15, were lawful and that the threat didn’t end until Brelo reached into the Malibu and removed the keys, preventing the suspects from using the car as a weapon. Russell and Williams were each shot more than 20 times.

## Iran’s nuclear program

Locations of nuclear programs in Iran



Source: Council on Foreign Relations, Nuclear Threat Initiative, International Atomic Energy Agency, Institute for Science and International Security  
Graphic: Tribune News Service

## Jerry Brown defends drought order that doesn't limit farmers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Gov. Jerry Brown on Sunday defended his order requiring Californians statewide to cut back on their water use in a historic mandate that spares those who consume the most—farmers.

As California endures a fourth year of drought, Brown’s order this week requires towns and cities statewide to draw down water use by 25 percent compared with 2013 levels. While past reductions were voluntary, Brown said he is using his emergency powers to make the cuts mandatory.

Martha Raddatz, host of ABC’s “This Week” public affairs program, asked Brown why the order doesn’t extend to California farmers, who consume 80 percent of the state’s water supply but make up less than 2 percent of the state’s economy. Brown said farmers aren’t using water frivolously on their lawns or taking long showers.

“They’re providing most of the fruits and vegetables of America to a significant part of the world,” he said.

Brown said that before the cutbacks, some California farmers had already been denied irrigation water from federal sur-

face supplies, forcing them to leave hundreds of thousands of acres unplanted. Many vulnerable farm laborers are without work, he said. Farmers who don’t have access to surface water have increased the amount of water pumped from limited groundwater supplies.

Brown announced the mandate on April 1 standing in the Sierra Nevada, where the snowpack measures at 5 percent of historical average, the lowest in 65 years of record-keeping.

Addressing agriculture, Brown said on the broadcast that farmers asserting century-old water rights deeply rooted in state law that allows them access to more water than others “are probably going to be examined.”

After declaring a drought emergency in January 2014, Brown urged Californians to voluntarily cut their water use by 20 percent from the previous year. That resulted in great variations among communities and an overall reduction of about 10 percent statewide. Brown did the same as governor in 1977, during another severe drought, asking for a voluntary reduction of 25 percent.

## Mental illness stalls case of bomb outside Detroit building

DETROIT (AP)—A man accused of planting a bomb outside of a Detroit federal building four years ago may never stand trial despite extraordinary efforts to improve his mental health.

Two courts allowed the government to forcibly medicate Gary Mikulich, but he’s still not mentally competent for trial. The issue now is whether he will stay locked up indefinitely because of his possible threat to the public.

The 2011 incident embarrassed the government. A Husky-brand tool bag holding the explosive was left outside the McNamara Building, which is the local home of the FBI and other agencies. It was brought inside by a security guard but

treated as lost property and stashed under a lobby desk.

Three weeks passed before the bag was X-rayed and destroyed at an island in the Detroit River.

“It wasn’t the type of bomb that was going to do damage to the building, but there was a lot of shrapnel,” said Andy Arena, who was head of the FBI in Detroit at the time. “We’re very lucky someone didn’t blow their hands off or head off. It was a wake-up call.”

The FBI’s investigation moved swiftly. Agents learned that Husky tool bags were sold exclusively by Home Depot. The retailer said only nine people in the U.S. had recently purchased that tool bag and a General Electric timer at the

same time.

Video from a Home Depot in Iron Mountain, 500 miles north of Detroit, showed Mikulich leaving the store with the items, according to the FBI. He lived nearby in Kingsford.

Mikulich, now 46, was charged with several crimes. There is no dispute that he has a history of mental illness. He was already known to Iron Mountain police, who had received faxes from him complaining about the FBI and claiming that a “card system” had caused the murder of thousands of people.

A judge in 2012 said he could be forcibly medicated, a decision that was affirmed 18 months later by a federal appeals court.



## Asia

## Afghan woman killed by mob becomes icon for justice, rights

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—Poets, musicians, actors and activists packed an empty shop in a Kabul mall to commemorate the short life and violent death of a woman who has become a symbol for justice and women's rights in a country that historically elevates warlords and battlefield heroes to national icons.

The name of Farkhunda, beaten to death by a frenzied mob apparently in the mistaken belief that she had burned a Quran, has become a rallying cry for Afghans hoping the shocking incident will lead to profound changes in Afghanistan.

Activists say the previously unquestioned power of the religious establishment is being challenged for the first time in Afghanistan's modern history. Religious leaders and conservative politicians have been forced by the power of public opinion to apologize for trying to justify Farkhunda's killing. At least one official has been sacked for saying the woman would have deserved her brutal death if she had indeed burned the Muslim holy book.

At last week's Kabul vigil, candlelight illuminated a huge poster of Farkhunda's blood-red face as an actor recited Shakespeare's "Seven Ages of Man," followed by performances of works commemorating her death. Outside, documentary filmmaker Diana Saeed broke down: "I don't believe in the humanity of this



**AP**  
In this Tuesday, March 31, 2015 photo, an independent artist plays the guitar during a memorial ceremony for 27-year-old Farkhunda, an Afghan woman who was beaten to death by a mob last month, in Kabul, Afghanistan.

country anymore," she said.

"It has been more than 10 days, but still I can't sleep, I can't eat. These people are killers, no different to the Taliban or Daesh who also kill people in the name of God," Saeed said, referring to an alternative acronym for the Islamic State group.

The rule of law, said human rights activist Nader Nadery, is in the ascendancy. "This is a turning point for civil liberties that is real. It will be difficult

to return to the former status quo when only self-proclaimed religious leaders held the high moral ground at the expense of justice and the constitution," he said. "If this struggle continues, the outcome will be what the country needs, to make rule of law clear and have religion understood in its place within the context of the law."

Farkhunda, a 27-year-old religious scholar who like many Afghans used only one name,

was killed on March 19 after an argument with a peddler at Kabul's Shah-Do Shamshira mosque. According to witnesses, she told the man to stop selling amulets to childless women; he shouted to whoever could hear that she had set fire to a Quran. As police watched, and at times participated, Farkhunda was punched, kicked, hit with planks of wood, thrown from a roof, run over by a car and crushed with a block of

concrete. Her body was then dragged along a main road, thrown onto the banks of the

Kabul River and set alight.

The incident, filmed on cellphones and posted on social media, sparked nationwide demonstrations—and vigils around the world. The Interior Ministry says it has arrested 28 suspects and dismissed 19 policemen. Investigations by a presidential commission, which declared Farkhunda innocent of Quran burning, continue. On Thursday, the government ordered the mosque closed until further notice.

Sima Samar, head of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, said some good may result from Farkhunda's shocking killing if the perpetrators are punished according to the law and a professional police force emerges to command public confidence.

## Afghan Shiite leader: Islamic State behind Shiite kidnapping

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—Afghanistan's senior Shiite community leader said on Saturday the Islamic State group is responsible for kidnapping dozens of Shiite men and boys in February.

Mohammad Mohaqiq said two former Taliban leaders, who switched allegiance to the rival Islamic State group, were responsible for the abduction of 31 members of the minority Shiite Hazara community on Feb. 24 in southern Zabul province.

He spoke with The Associated Press on Saturday. It is the first time an Afghan leader has confirmed Islamic State group involvement in the kidnappings.

Mohaqiq, who is a deputy

to Afghanistan's Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, named Mullah Mansur Dadullah and a deputy, Mullah Abdullah Kakar, as behind the abductions. Mohaqiq said the two prominent Islamic militants had simply "changed their white flag" of the Taliban for the black IS flag.

Afghan security forces had launched an operation to find the Hazaras in the week after the kidnappings, Mohaqiq said, but the effort failed.

The men have now been split up into groups of three or four and were being held in different areas of the mountainous province, Mohaqiq said. As far as he knew, they were still alive.

The Hazaras were abducted

from two vehicles on a major road in Zabul province by men described by officials at the time as wearing black clothing and black masks. The armed kidnappers separated the men and boys from women, children and non-Hazaras in the vehicles.

The kidnappings sent shockwaves through Hazara communities across the country and led to widespread demonstrations. On Saturday, an estimated 4,000 Hazaras marched through northern Mazar-i-Sharif, organizers said. More demonstrations are planned in Kabul in coming days.

"People across the country are worried and they want the government to speed up its ac-

tions to resolve this," Mohaqiq said. "The government will do anything it has in hand for their release, from negotiations to fighting."

For the past month, relatives of some abductees have held a protest vigil in a makeshift camp outside the parliament in Kabul.

Mohammad Zahir, 33, said his brother Hussain, 30, was returning to Kabul from Iran to renew his visa when he was abducted. "We have lost our hope that the government can do anything for us. Whenever we go to government officials or to our elders, they don't give us any response that makes us feel hopeful," he said.

South Asian country since early January to demand that Hasina resign and a new election be called.

The blockade began after a year of relative calm following a January 2014 election that was boycotted by Zia's party. The boycott allowed Hasina to come to power with an overwhelming majority, and she says there is no need for another election before 2019, when her five-year term ends.

## Ex-Premier Zia avoids arrest as Bangladesh court grants bail

**DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)**—Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia avoided arrest on corruption charges Sunday after a court granted her bail.

Judge Abu Ahmed Jamadder approved Zia's request for bail when she surrendered to court in the capital, Dhaka.

Zia left her office for the first since Jan. 5, when authorities had initially barred her from leaving to attend an anti-government rally calling for the resig-

nation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her archrival. Authorities later said she was free to move to her nearby residence, but Zia refused, vowing to continue with anti-government protests that have turned violent, leaving nearly 115 people dead since the beginning of the year.

Zia's lawyers have rejected allegations that she illegally collected more than \$1 million in donations for a charity during her last premiership in 2001-

2006, and say the charges are politically motivated, which authorities deny.

The trial began early last year. The court had issued an arrest warrant for Zia in February after she failed to appear to answer the charges against her. Prosecutors on Sunday did not oppose Zia's bail request.

Zia currently leads a 20-party opposition alliance that has been enforcing a nonstop transportation blockade across the

## ASIAN BRIEFS

## Man kills 10 family members in marriage dispute in Pakistan

**PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)**—Authorities say a man in Pakistan, angered by a rejected marriage proposal to his cousin, has killed 10 members of his extended family after years earlier killing four others over it. Police officer Shahid Khan says the attack happened early Sunday in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in its mountainous northwest. Khan says Gul Ahmed, the man suspected of carrying out the attack, is still on the run. Khan says Ahmed shot dead his uncle, aunt and eight cousins—including Naveeda Bibi, who he wanted to marry. In November 2014, Khan says Ahmed also shot dead his parents and two brothers over wanting to marry her. He was never arrested by police for the earlier killings. Violence over rejected proposals occasionally strikes Pakistan.

## Road accidents kill 33 people in 2 Chinese provinces

**BEIJING (AP)**—Two road accidents killed 33 people and injured eight others in two Chinese provinces over the weekend, state media and officials said. A bus plunged into a ravine in Nayong county in the southwestern province of Guizhou, killing 21 people and injuring three others, the state broadcaster China Central Television reported. A preliminary investigation suggested the driver drove on a mountain road in-

tended only for smaller vehicles. The bus plummeted nearly 100 meters (yards) into a dry riverbed, the official Xinhua News Agency said. In Kangle county in the northwestern province of Gansu, a farm vehicle careened while making a turn on a mountain road, killing 12 people and injuring five, local officials said in an online statement. Both crashes happened on Saturday and remained under investigation.

## Malaysia detains 17 people suspected of plotting terror acts

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)**—Malaysia's police chief says 17 suspected militants have been detained for allegedly plotting to carry out terrorist acts in the country's largest city, Kuala Lumpur. Inspector General of Police Khalid Abu Bakar says the 17 people were detained Sunday. Khalid tweeted on Monday that two of them had just returned from Syria. No further details were immediately available. The government has detained scores of Malaysians believed to be supporters of the Islamic State militant group. Last month, the home ministry proposed two new anti-terror laws that will reintroduce indefinite detention without trial and allow the seizure of passports of anyone suspected of supporting terror acts to curb militant activities in the country. Critics, however, say the new laws as a return of oppressive policies that will curb civil liberties.



# World

## Gunman in Kenyan massacre was government official's son

**GARISSA, Kenya (AP)**—One of the gunmen who slaughtered 148 people at a college in Kenya was identified Sunday as the law-school-educated son of a Kenyan government official, underscoring the inroads Islamic extremists have made in recruiting young people to carry out attacks against their own country.

Abdirahim Mohammed Abdullahi, who was killed by security forces Thursday along with the three other militants who stormed Garissa University College, was the son of a government chief in Mandera County, which borders Somalia, Interior Ministry spokesman Mwenda Njoka told The Associated Press.

The chief had reported his son missing last year and feared he had gone to Somalia, Njoka said.

Somalia's al-Shabab militant group claimed responsibility for the bloodbath, saying it was retribution for Kenya's sending of troops to Somalia to fight the extremists. The attackers separated Christian students from Muslim ones and massacred the Christians.

The news that one of the gunmen was Kenyan highlights the challenges faced by the government in preventing terrorist attacks. The danger comes not only from neighboring Somalia but also from within Kenya.

Kenyans make up the largest number of foreign fighters in al-Shabab, according to experts. Hundreds of Kenyan



A young Christian boy is frisked with a metal detector and has his bag searched to prevent attacks, as he enters the compound of the Our Lady of Consolation Church, which was attacked with grenades by militants almost three years ago, in Garissa, Kenya Sunday, April 5, 2015.

youths have trained with al-Shabab and then returned to Kenya, posing a major security threat, according to former police chief Mathew Iteere.

Kenya's government has said another source of instability is the country's refugee camps, with more than 423,000 Somali refugees.

Abdullahi graduated from the University of Nairobi with a law degree in 2013 and was seen as

a "brilliant upcoming lawyer," according to Njoka.

Njoka said it is important for parents to inform authorities if their children disappear or seem to be embracing extremism.

Meanwhile, questions have been raised about the security response to the Garissa attack.

Police waited seven hours before sending a special tactical unit into the college to fight the gunmen, Kenya's Daily Nation

Abdullah Saleh—whose loyalists control elite forces and large combat units in Yemen's military. The Saudi-led campaign in its 11th day aims to thwart the advances of the rebels, who took over the capital Sanaa in September and eventually forced President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to flee to Aden, Yemen's second largest city in the south, after putting him under house arrest. The combined force of Houthis and Saleh loyalists is now advancing on Aden and seeking to tighten their hold on this nation of 25 million on Saudi Arabia's southern border.

### Residents flee clashes in Palestinian camp in Syrian capital

**BEIRUT (AP)**—Hundreds of residents of a Palestinian refugee camp in the Syrian capital Damascus fled Sunday amid shelling by government forces and clashes between Islamic State fighters and Palestinian militants, activists said. An activist based in an area just south of Damascus, Hatem al-Dimashqi, said many residents started fleeing the Yarmouk camp after midnight as the fighting let up. The camp has been subjected to intense shelling and airstrikes by the government. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and al-Dimashqi said those who fled the camp have reached the southern Damascus suburbs of Yalda, Babila and Beit Sahem, which are under rebel control. Al-Dimashqi and Syrian state TV said as many as 2,000 people have left the camp. The activist said that many of those who fled the camp are staying in schools or abandoned homes.

## After Tikrit victory, Iraq's new challenge: Win over Sunnis

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—Iraq won the battle to retake the city of Tikrit from the Islamic State group, backed by a coalition of the unlikely in Iranian advisers, Shiite militias, and U.S.-led airstrikes, but the country now faces what could be its most important battle: Winning the support of the Sunnis.

Sunni tribes played a key role during the U.S. occupation fighting back al-Qaida in Iraq, the Islamic State group's predecessor, and their distrust of Baghdad's Shiite-led government eased the extremists' takeover last summer. But as Tikrit now sits in ruins, still patrolled by fractious Shiite militias, the powerful Sunni tribes remain as distrustful as ever as further offensives in their heartland loom.

The government "needs those local tribes to secure

the territory and hold the fort until government function is restored in these areas," said Sajad Jiyad, a senior researcher at al-Bayan Center for Studies and Planning in Baghdad. "The government needs to make sure that everyone who fights today has a future in Iraq tomorrow—and not just to find a short-term military solution today and forget about them later."

Sunni grievances mounted during the eight-year rule of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, widely seen as pursuing sectarian policies. Al-Maliki responded to rising Sunni protests with a violent crackdown, further stirring dissent. By December 2013, security forces withdrew from Ramadi after dismantling a protest camp, allowing Islamic State militants

newspaper reported Sunday.

When the specially trained police finally went in, it took them only 30 minutes to kill the four attackers and stop the siege, the paper said.

Army barracks are just 500 meters (540 yards) from the college, and military officers said they could handle the attack, said a police officer who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media. Only after three soldiers were killed did the army call in the police tactical unit, he said.

Before the massacre, northeastern Kenya had seen other deadly attacks by al-Shabab against Christians.

Several hundred grieving Christians marked Easter Sunday at a Catholic church in Garissa, where Bishop Joseph Alessandro drew a parallel between the ordeal of Jesus Christ and that of the stricken town.

"We join the sufferings of the relatives and the victims with the sufferings of Jesus," he told the congregation at Our Lady of Consolation Church. "The victims will rise again with Christ."

ultimately to take it over.

When the Islamic State group swept across a third of Iraq last summer, many Sunnis initially greeted them as liberators. Analysts believe members of Saddam's outlawed Baath Party, stacked largely with Sunnis, also aided the extremists.

The few Sunni tribes that stood up against the Islamic State group have paid a heavy price. In the Salahuddin town of Duluyiah, a mass grave holds the remains of 150 people from the al-Jabour tribe, killed by the militants in December. The militants also killed more than 200 men, women and children from the Sunni Al Bu Nimr tribe in Anbar province in November. The mass killings offered a stark warning to others considering aiding the government.

## Pope, thousands brave rain for Easter in St. Peter's Square

**VATICAN CITY (AP)**—In an Easter peace wish, Pope Francis on Sunday praised the framework nuclear agreement with Iran as an opportunity to make the world safer, while expressing deep worry about bloodshed in Libya, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Nigeria and elsewhere in Africa. Cautious hope ran through Francis' "Urbi et Orbi" Easter message, a kind of papal commentary on the state of the world's affairs, which he delivered from the central balcony of St. Peter's Square.

He had just celebrated Mass in rain-whipped St. Peter's

Square for tens of thousands of people, who huddled under umbrellas or braved the downpour in thin, plastic rain-slickers.

Easter day is "so beautiful, and so ugly because of the rain," Francis said after Mass about Christianity's most important feast day. He expressed thanks for the flowers which bedecked the square and which were donated by the Netherlands, but the bright hues of the azaleas and other blossoms seemed muted by the gray skies.

Francis made his first public comments about the

recent framework for an accord, reached in Lausanne, Switzerland, and aimed at ensuring Iran doesn't develop a nuclear weapon.

"In hope we entrust to the merciful Lord the framework recently agreed to in Lausanne, that it may be a definitive step toward a more secure and fraternal world."

Decrying the plentitude of weapons in the world in general, Francis said: "And we ask for peace for this world subjected to arms dealers, who earn their living with the blood of men and women."

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Bomb explodes on central Cairo bridge, kills at least 1

**CAIRO (AP)**—A bomb blast on a bridge leading to an upscale neighborhood in central Cairo killed a policeman and wounded at least two passers-by on Sunday, hours after Egyptian security forces killed the leader of an extremist group that claimed responsibility, police said. An Associated Press reporter saw a mangled corpse hanging out of a truck on the bridge, which spans the Nile River connecting the Giza district to the wealthy island neighborhood of Zamalek, where many embassies are located. Dozens of people gathered at the scene, some yelling in outrage, others in fear or grief. Several cars were stopped in traffic with their windows blown out. "All of a sudden a bomb exploded and there was lots of smoke," said Ahmed Hussein, an eyewitness who was on the bridge at the time of the blast and saw the policeman killed. "His body was torn apart," he said.

#### Senior Yemeni Sunni leaders abducted by Shiite rebels

**SANAA, Yemen (AP)**—Yemeni Shiite rebels, making an aggressive bid for power in the impoverished Gulf state, arrested more than a hundred members from a rival Islamist Sunni political party, including two leaders, the party said in a statement Sunday. The Islah party, the Muslim Brotherhood's branch in Yemen and a traditional power player in Yemen, had declared its support for the Saudi-led coalition bombing campaign against the rebels and their allies. The Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, have been joined by security forces loyal to the ousted President Ali



## Focus

By JOSH BOAK  
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Steady hiring is supposed to fire up economic growth. Cheap gasoline is supposed to power consumer spending.

Falling unemployment is supposed to boost wages.

Low mortgage rates are supposed to spur home buying.

America's economic might is supposed to benefit its workers.

Yet all those common assumptions about how an economy thrives appear to have broken down during the first three months of 2015.

The economic benefits that normally would flow after a full year of solid hiring have yet to emerge. Just 126,000 jobs were added in March, the government said Friday. Average weekly paychecks fell.

Restaurants cut back on hiring because savings at the gas pump didn't lead to more dinner reservations. Builders and manufacturers each cut 1,000 workers from payrolls, thanks to tepid construction activity and so-so factory orders.

Had Friday's report been released a few days earlier, "it would have been laughed at as a great April Fools' joke," said Gregory Daco, head of U.S. macroeconomics at Oxford Economics.

The middling gains confirm evidence elsewhere of a broad economic slowdown. During the first three months of the year, the Atlanta Federal Reserve forecasts that the economy actually came to a standstill—failing to grow at all.

Some of the first quarter's slowdown is no doubt due to an especially harsh winter. Yet nearly six years into the recovery from the Great Recession, the economy's muddled progress seems inescapable. A long-awaited breakout remains elusive, suggesting that the economy's direction has never been quite as simple as some analysts, politicians and bar stool philosophers would have it.

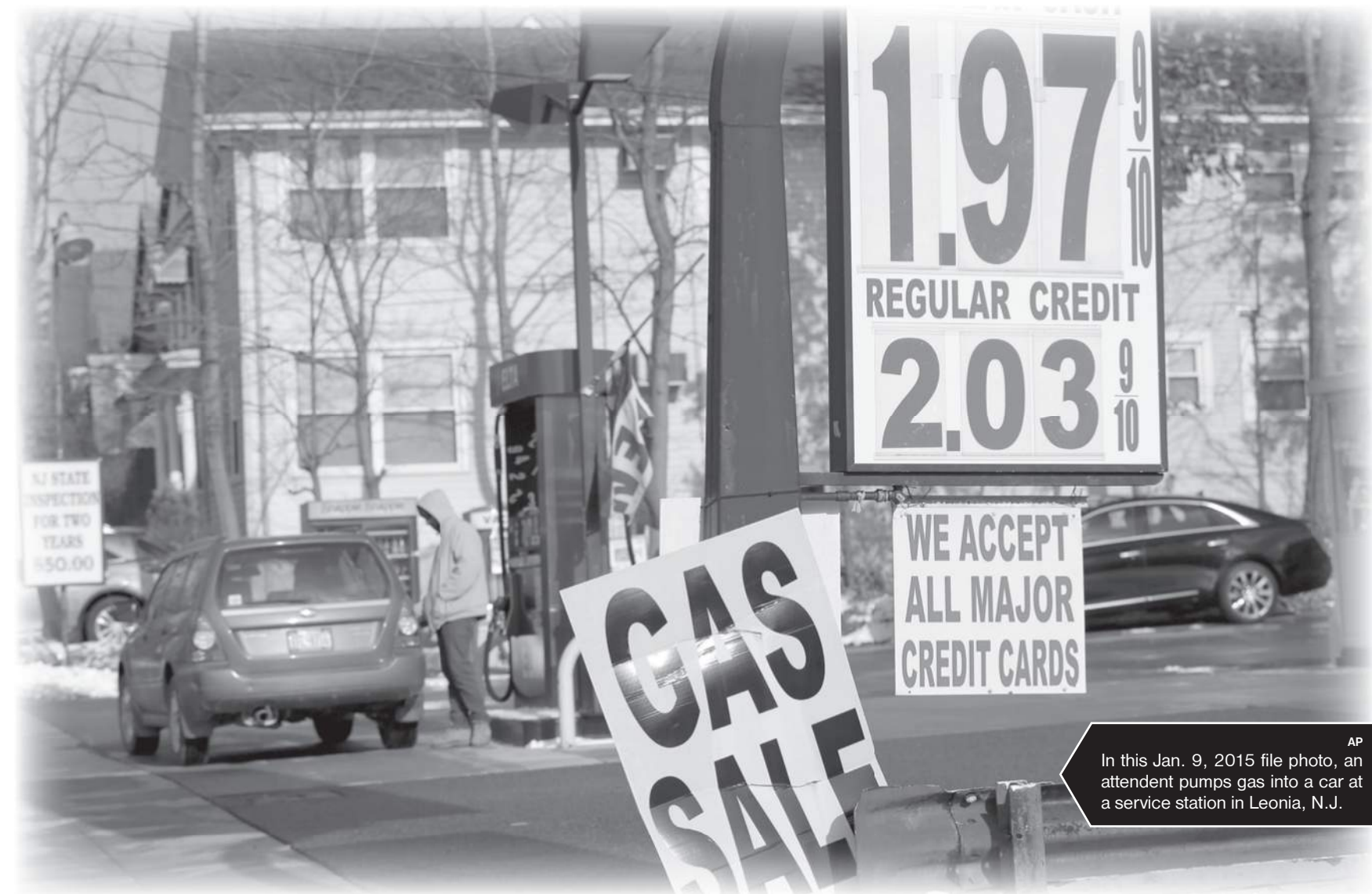
Now, some analysts are pointing to factors that might have been downplayed or overlooked this year. Others are holding to their projections about the economy as it theoretically should be. After all, they reason, March may prove to be a hiccup akin to what happened in 2014, when a first-quarter slump was followed by a burst of growth in the ensuing months.

Here are five factors that help explain why the U.S. economy isn't accelerating as you might expect.

#### ■ NASTY WEATHER

For parts of the United States, it felt like endless winter. The snowfall and frigid tempera-

# Why job growth and cheap gas aren't doing what they should



AP  
In this Jan. 9, 2015 file photo, an attendant pumps gas into a car at a service station in Leonia, N.J.

tures that lingered until the closing days of March can freeze economic growth.

Construction crews built fewer homes: On a seasonally adjusted basis, builders broke ground on 17 percent fewer homes between January and February. Shoppers skipped visits to the mall and auto dealers, choosing instead to crank up the thermostat. Retail sales fell in January and February.

"Losses to construction and some moderation in retail hiring relative to last year suggest unusually harsh winter weather played some role in explaining the weakness," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at Mesrow Financial.

If weather was a culprit, it might actually be an encouraging fact. It would mean that the economy remains fundamentally healthy—something that would become evident once the clouds lift and the sun emerges in spring.

And that would be exactly what occurred last year.

Still, Swonk cautions that weather explains "some but not all" of the disappointing growth.

#### ■ STRONG DOLLAR

Many U.S. factories ship their wares around the world. But because the U.S. economy has fared better than its trade part-

ners, U.S. factories are now at a disadvantage: America's relative health has helped drive up the dollar's international value. Goods from U.S. factories are about 20 percent costlier in Europe than a year ago, an increase that has dampened sales.

So the U.S. economy's very strength has helped create a weakness.

Which is why Maryland-based Marlin Steel has held off on plans to hire more metal workers.

"It's not just me selling into Europe—it's all of my clients selling into Europe," said Drew Greenblatt, president of Marlin Steel. "They're all dealing with the pain."

#### ■ OIL'S SLICK MOVES

A barrel of crude oil costs under \$50, having more than halved in price since June. This means wells are pumping out smaller profits, if not losses. When oil prices plunge and billions of dollars are at stake, oil companies tend to respond quickly to curb production. The number of active rigs has fallen 50 percent since October, according to Baker Hughes, the oilfield services company. This has led to layoffs, tighter budgets and fewer orders for equipment, all which hurt growth.

Consumers, by contrast, have

yet to respond to their savings from cheaper gasoline by spending much more. The lag means that the oil companies' cutbacks have yet to be offset by greater retail spending. So the economy has suffered all the downside, while the upside has yet to appear, said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at Northern Trust.

Tannenbaum predicts that consumers will eventually respond to gas prices, which are on average 33 percent lower than a year ago. When they finally do, the economy should perk up.

#### ■ MEAGER PAY RAISES

It's hard for consumers to spend more if their paychecks barely move. Average annual wage growth is stuck at a meager 2.1 percent even as the U.S. unemployment rate has tumbled over the past year to a near-normal 5.5 percent from 6.6 percent. And average hours worked declined last month, causing workers to earn even less than they did in February.

In theory, the hiring surge that occurred over the past year should lead to higher wages. After all, when the unemployment rate falls, it usually becomes harder for companies to hire capable workers, forcing them to offer better pay. But despite recent raises at McDonald's, Wal-Mart and other companies with

lower-paid workers, there's little evidence that pay growth is accelerating.

It might be that the unemployment rate needs to fall even further. The Federal Reserve now says a normal economy should have a rate as low as 5 percent.

But another possibility is that a sizable pool of workers remains available around the world, providing cheap labor that suppresses wage growth in the United States. In recent years, the global labor pool has added more than 3.5 billion working-age people from emerging economies. This increase can suppress U.S. pay growth, said Megan Greene, chief economist at John Hancock Asset Management.

"If you have that many jobs globally, it's hard to see why wages would be pushed up in a sustainable way," she said.

Consider the housing market. Since home prices bottomed in 2012, they've surged at a 13-1 ratio compared with raises, according to an analysis by RealtyTrac, a real estate information company. Without rising incomes to save for a down payment and cover monthly mortgage payments, most people who hope to own a home can't take advantage of historically low mortgage rates. This has led

to sales running below last year's pace, according to the National Association of Realtors.

#### ■ GOING AUTOMATIC

The U.S. economy is undergoing seismic technological shifts. And many employers are finding automation preferable to hiring. A survey of Harvard Business School alumni released in September found that nearly half would rather invest in technology than hire or retain workers. This displacement can undermine the usual connection between falling unemployment and rising wages.

Even smaller employers are turning to tech. Recent job ads failed to produce enough qualified applicants at Massachusetts-based retailer Dave's Soda and Pet City, which sells soda and pet food at seven locations. Founder Dave Ratner said his 150 employees earn on average \$15 an hour. Raising pay would make him less competitive with national chains. So Ratner chose instead to automate his stores' ordering system.

"We're spending a ton of money trying to automate everything we do," he said. "Anywhere we can cut down on the amount of labor without sacrificing customer service. ... We've just never done that before. But it's really a necessity."



# Overdrive

## Finally, a four-wheeled feline with all-wheel drive

By LARRY PRINTZ  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

There was a time when all cars used rear-wheel drive. When winter hit, drivers put sand in the trunk for extra weight and placed studded snow tires on the wheels for extra grip. If none of that was enough, tire chains were deployed for cutting through the icy morass.

And so it was until two OPEC oil embargoes in the 1970s led automakers to replace their rear-wheel-drive chariots with front-wheel-drive cars in an effort to save weight and decrease fuel consumption. But along the way, something funny happened.

As drivers became comfortable with front-wheel drive, they also became accustomed to the added grip it afforded. By placing most of the driveline's weight on the front wheels, foul weather grip is superior to that of rear-wheel drive. This gives solace to those who panic when a broadcaster forecasts a winter storm, sending the fearful to deplete grocery store shelves of French toast fixings. (That would be bread, milk and eggs.)

But like everything in modern life, this resulted in an arms race.

While front-wheel drive is

### NUTS & BOLTS:

**Wheelbase:** 114.5 inches  
**Length:** 195.3 inches  
**Cargo space:** 17.7 cubic feet  
**Curb weight:** 4,415 pounds  
**EPA rating (city/highway):** 17/27 mpg  
**Base price, base model:** \$51,175  
**Base price, test vehicle:** \$59,875  
**As tested:** \$60,800  
**NHTSA safety rating:** Not rated



The 2015 Jaguar XF gets 17 mpg in the city and 27 on the highway.

more than enough to get drivers through most snowstorms, in the past few years, all-wheel-drive became a must, even in the South, where snow is greeted as warmly as General Sherman. Maybe it's fear of climate change; or and the thought that we may not be able to get to Whole Foods when we ran out of bread, milk and hummus.

This is apparent in any cul-de-sac, where any number of Audi A6, BMW 5 Series and Mercedes-Benz E-Class models fitted with all-wheel drive resides. And while this may not be true in Phoenix, Ft. Lauderdale

or Los Angeles, it is in Boston, Chicago or Minneapolis.

So you have to wonder what took the good folks at Jaguar so long to fit the midsize XF sports sedan with all-wheel drive, when the same company produces Land Rovers. Well, you can keep wondering, but it doesn't matter. For 2015, you can finally take your favorite four-wheeled feline to your favored ski slope without fear of sliding off some twisty mountain road.

The XF is offered with a V6 in Premium, Portfolio and Sport trim, and the final two can be

had with all-wheel drive. Opting for a V-8 means choosing among the 5.0 Supercharged, XFR or XFR-S trim levels, but only with rear-wheel drive.

So while rear-wheel-drive XF buyers have a choice of engines, including a 240-horsepower turbocharged four-cylinder engine, a 340-horsepower supercharged 3.0-liter V-6, a 470-horsepower supercharged 5.0-liter V-8, a 510-horsepower supercharged 5.0-liter V-8, and a 550-horsepower supercharged 5.0-liter V-8, opting for all-wheel drive means getting the 340-horsepower V-6 mated to an eight-

speed automatic transmission.

Disappointed? Don't be. This driveline is also used in the new F-Type sports car. In this application, the V-6 provides more than enough thrust to get you to the Piggly Wiggly, soccer practice or the opera with more than a little gusto.

But it's this Jag's underpinnings that make it such a willing dance partner, with quick reflexes and a vibrant disposition that combine with a supple suspension that still manages to answer the demands of enthusiastic driving. The chassis can be set to one of three modes: Normal,

Dynamic, and Winter. As you'd expect, each one adjusts the car's performance parameters depending on driver preference.

Having driven this car from Boston, Mass. to Burlington, Vt. in February, I can attest that Winter mode is most helpful this time of year since it sends 30 percent of the torque to the front wheels when needed. It adds just enough traction to keep things fun without sacrificing the joy inherent in a rear-drive set-up.

Once comfortable with the XF's performance, you'll notice the airy cabin retains the simple eloquence and unique quirkiness that has always been a part of the car's appeal.

Climb into the car with the smart key in your pocket and the starter button light pulses like a heartbeat. Once the car starts, the closed air vents rotate open, while the transmission shift knob rises like Icarus out of the center console. A touch screen controls vital functions, including a heated steering wheel and seats as well as navigation system and an exceptional Meridian audio system.

Larry Printz is automotive editor writer and editor in Burlington, Vt. Readers may send him email at [TheDrivingPrintz@gmail.com](mailto:TheDrivingPrintz@gmail.com).

### UNDER THE HOOD

## What to do about squeaky brakes

By BRAD BERGHOLDT  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**Q: My car has brakes that often squeal. My repair shop says they can't see any problems with the brakes and they can't duplicate the noise I'm hearing. Are the brakes sure to stop when needed? The noise is embarrassing and shouldn't be there.—Jackie Harris**

**A:** The cause of this generally harmless but annoying sound is likely vibrations of a disc pad or possibly the caliper within its mounts. It's important to mention that worn-out disc brake pads can also be noisy, due to metal-to-metal contact between the disc pad backing and rotor (the friction material is worn away). Or, it may be that a metal wear sensing tab is rubbing against the rotor (typically a constant or pulsating squeal that occurs some or at all times and changes with brake application). Brake noise can occur due to brake pad composition or condition, the pad vibrating in its nest, or dry/unlubricated brake caliper slide pins. It's also possible the pads have been overheated at some time and the friction material has become glazed. The shiny and hardened friction surface skips and bounces across the brake rotor surface.

Brake rotors can also develop hard spots and surface irregularities that cause noise. Also, during brake service, improper machining methods leaving a rough surface can make matters worse. A dull tool bit or impatient/fast cutting speed can cause a rough surface that promotes pad vibration. The surface finish should be less than 60 microinches for best results. Also, cheap replacement rotors may not have the best metallurgy or harmonic suppression features.

Disc brake pads come in many formulations. When choosing brakes, ask for a pad composition that prioritizes quietness over long life and

buy the top-of-the-line grade. If the disc pad employs springs, clips or shims to dampen movement, it's important these parts are present and in proper condition. Replace them if questionable. There are a few noise reduction techniques that can be employed when installing the pads, such as adding a layer of special RTV adhesive/cushion to the pad back. A very tiny application of high temperature grease at the edges of the pad's metal backing, where they contact the brake caliper, and the caliper sliding pins should also be performed. It's really important grease does not get onto the disc pad's friction surface. Chamfering (tapering) the leading and trailing edges of the pad's friction material may also help keep things quiet. Premium quality pads typically come this way.

Your best chance of quieting the squeal would be to renew the pads with a premium grade product (generally includes new shims, clips, et cetera) and skillful machining of the rotor surfaces, along with applications of pad backing adhesive and grease mentioned above.

Reader follow up on brake dust: Joe Gelb pointed out that copper, an ingredient found in brake pads and their dust is harmful to the environment and is being legislated out of brakes as the manufacturers are able to find suitable substitutes. Gelb's company is working on dust containment systems for a variety of vehicles. Barry Lou pointed out he's had really good success using Armor-All Wheel Protectant. He says his wheels remain clean for up to six weeks with each application. Barry says he has a hard time finding the product at times and stocks up when he can.

*Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at [under-the-hood\(at\)earthlink.net](mailto:under-the-hood(at)earthlink.net); he cannot make personal replies.*

### In Celebration of His New Life

## †Christopher Peredo Villafuerte

Better known as "Bobak Dasu"

November 9, 1966 - April 1, 2015

#### In His New life, He now joins his:

Father: + Amando Villafuerte (better known as Steward)  
Mother: + Angelina Borja Peredo (Dasu)  
Brothers: + Jesus Tydingco  
+ Lucas Villafuerte  
+ Ceasar Villafuerte  
Sisters: + Susana Rios Tokyo  
+ Beatrice Troup

#### His memories will forever live in the hearts of His:

Wife: Melisha Villafuerte  
Children: Adriana Villafuerte  
Nicole Villafuerte  
Marina Villafuerte  
Jucella Villafuerte

#### Brothers, Sisters and In-Law:

Annie & Victor Vegara and Children  
Michael Tokyo and Children  
Rosa Tydingco and Children  
Debra Rios and Children  
Michael Troup and Children  
Armando & Sarah Villafuerte and Children  
Julius & Betsy Villafuerte and Children  
Dorothy & Dana Kurtz and Children

**He is additionally survived by numerous uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.**

Mass of Intentions for the repose of His soul are being celebrated daily at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00am.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, April 09, 2015.

His remains will lie in state at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30am with the recitation of the Holy Rosary. Responso service will be at 8:45am. His remains will be taken to Kristo Rai Church following the Responso service.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 9:00am followed by Interment service at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Please join us in prayers,

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

*Melisha Villafuerte, Children and Family*



# Life & Style

## 'Furious 7' races past expectations with \$143.6 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The high-octane “Furious 7” peeled out of the gates in its opening weekend, picking up a stunning \$143.6 million from 4,004 locations to easily top the domestic box office, according to Rentrak estimates Sunday.

The expectation-shattering sum is a studio and franchise best for the homegrown car-obsessed series, which has continued to grow over the past few films.

“Furious 7,” now the ninth-biggest opening of all time, also unseats previous April record-holder “Captain America: The Winter Soldier,” which opened to \$95 million on the same weekend last year.

While the “Fast and Furious” films have grown in popularity over the past three films, the mega-opening for “Furious 7” was also at least partially tied to audience interest in star Paul Walker, who died in a car crash in Nov. 2013 before the film was completed.

Production on “Furious 7” was halted while the filmmakers and Universal decided whether or not to proceed with the film. The team ultimately decided to delay the release from its originally scheduled July 2014 date.

“It probably created some curiosity, but, at the same time, (the film) fits in so well with the overall continuing saga of the



AP  
This photo provided by Universal Pictures shows, from left, Tyrese Gibson as Roman, Michelle Rodriguez as Letty, Paul Walker as Brian, and Chris Ludacris as Tej, in a scene from “Furious 7.”

‘Fast and Furious’ franchise,” Nick Carpou, Universal’s president of domestic distribution, said of Walker.

“It’s a motivator, but it’s not by any means the prime motivator to see the movie,” he added.

There is also a sense that massive openings like “Furious 7” point to the creeping of summer blockbuster season, which

seems to be starting earlier and earlier as studios try to stake their claim on prime dates.

But for Carpou, in a 52-week-a-year release strategy, the demarcation of a summer blockbuster is almost irrelevant when it comes to getting audiences to turn out in droves for a film.

“It’s that corny old adage that if you build it, they will

come,” he said, adding that the impressive February debut of “Fifty Shades of Grey” helps prove his point.

Paul Dergarabedian, Senior Media Analyst for box office firm Rentrak, thinks that this is a liberating trend for studios who once clamored for the first weekend in May release date.

“Studios are finding tremen-

dous value in putting their movies in non-traditional corridors,” he said.

As the most ambitious release in Universal’s history, “Furious 7” opened on 10,005 screens internationally as well, picking up \$240.4 million from 63 territories for a \$384 million worldwide debut—a 48 percent in-

crease over “Fast & Furious 6.”

The film will also debut in Russia, Poland, Japan, and China in the coming weeks.

Holdovers populated the rest of the top spots with DreamWorks Animation’s “Home” earning \$27.4 to take a distant second place. “Get Hard” brought in an estimated \$12.9 million, while “Cinderella” and “The Divergent Series: Insurgent” rounded out the top five with \$10.3 million and \$10 million, respectively.

But it’s all about “Furious 7” for the next few weeks. The film has the roads to itself until Disney and Marvel’s “The Avengers: Age of Ultron” hits theaters on May 1.

“This could be the first in the franchise to flirt with the billion dollar mark,” Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. “Furious 7,” \$143.6 million (\$240.4 million international).
2. “Home,” \$27.4 million (\$20.7 million international).
3. “Get Hard,” \$12.9 million (\$2.6 million international).
4. “Cinderella,” \$10.3 million (\$24.3 million international).
5. “The Divergent Series: Insurgent,” \$10 million (\$15.5 million international).
6. “It Follows,” \$2.5 million.
7. “Woman in Gold,” \$2 million.
8. “Kingsman: The Secret Service,” \$1.7 million (\$20 million international).
9. “Do You Believe,” \$1.5 million.
10. “The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel,” \$1 million (\$3 million international).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to Rentrak:

1. “Furious 7,” \$240.4 million.
2. “Cinderella,” \$24.3 million.
3. “Wolf Warriors,” \$22 million.
4. “Home,” \$20.7 million.
5. “Kingsman: The Secret Service,” \$20 million.
6. “Let’s Get Married,” \$16 million.
7. “The Divergent Series: Insurgent,” \$15.5 million.
8. “The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water,” \$5.8 million.
9. “Twenty,” \$5.3 million.
10. “Focus,” \$4.9 million.

## NYC’s Easter Parade brings out creative hats

NEW YORK (AP)—The bonnets appeared on Fifth Avenue for the annual Easter Parade—outlandish 21st century headpieces that were hardly bonnets, featuring everything from bunnies and butterflies to grassy, egg-dotted lawns and even a tall ship on the high seas.

And the parade is hardly a parade. Instead, while Cardinal Timothy Dolan celebrated Sunday Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, the avenue was milling with people in homemade costumes that get zanier each year.

The crowd included Christians, Jews, Hindus, agnostics, atheists and others, including hundreds of tourists.

“It’s all about versatility,” said Mary Anna Smith, a New York custom milliner whose business card reads “The Topsy Topper.”

The 2015 Easter Parade bore



AP  
Sasha Bryant, left, and her sister India Bryant walk in the Easter Parade along New York’s Fifth Avenue on Sunday, April 5, 2015.

little resemblance to the first one that started in the 1880s as a display of the finery prosperous New Yorkers wore to Fifth Avenue churches. In recent decades, the street gathering has morphed into a costume circus.

Smith wore a “hat” she fashioned from an elaborate kite and some fluffy white stuff into a bright blue sailing ship floating on sea foam.

“It’s about sailing to new heights,” said Smith.

She also created headpieces for two friends, one a massive butterfly and the other a tropical umbrella dripping with felt balls and anchored to a bird’s nest, then to human hair.

Steps from the parade, the trio was tending to last-minute touches, adding bobby pins to make sure the contraptions didn’t topple.

“It’s Easter and I didn’t want to be too garish,” said Smith’s friend, Kristen Lee Sergeant, a Manhattan jazz singer in a simple green dress. “But then again, I do have a huge butterfly on my head!”

For their first Easter Parade, the Maxwell family wore costumes themed on the 1984 American sci-fi comedy film “Ghostbusters,” which has nothing to do with the Easter theme of Jesus’ resurrection.

## Prince Harry chats and shakes hands with Australian public

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A cheerful Prince Harry shook hands and chatted with hundreds of cheering fans outside Australia’s national war memorial on Monday during the British royal’s only scheduled public appearance of a month-long attachment to the Australian army.

Young and old members the public gathered over hours in cool and drizzling weather in Canberra outside the Australian War Memorial where Harry laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier then strolled the museum’s World War I and Afghanistan galleries.

Some welcomed the ginger-haired fourth in line to the British throne, who will soon shift to fifth place with the birth of his brother Prince William’s second child, with a large, light-hearted banner that said: “Redheads RULE!”

Harry stopped for a chat with the redheaded owner of the sign, 12-year-old Ethan. “He was just like: ‘Being a redhead just has to be the No. 1 thing one person can ever be,’” Ethan told Nine Network television of his conver-

sation with the prince.

Despite the light rain, Harry appeared relaxed and took his time chatting with eager members of the public who either extended cell phones to take a photographs or hands to be grasped.

He drew laughs when he urged a teenage admirer to break the habit shared by many young people of photographing themselves.

“Seriously, you need to get out of it. I know you’re young, but selfies are bad,” Nine recorded him saying.

Harry arrived at Sydney International Airport early Monday dressed in army fatigues, and changed into a dress uniform for the official functions at the memorial.

The 30-year-old veteran of two tours in Afghanistan later reported for duty to Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, who is Australia’s Defense Force Chief, at the nearby Australian military officers’ college.

Captain Harry Wales, as he is known in the British army, will be embedded with a number of Australian army units and regiments in the cities of Sydney, Darwin and Perth.



# Report: Rolling Stone rape article 'journalistic failure'

**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)**—Rolling Stone magazine retracted a widely discredited article about an alleged gang rape at the University of Virginia after a top journalism school issued a scathing report Sunday concluding it had failed to meet proper journalistic standards.

The review, undertaken at Rolling Stone's request, presented a broad indictment of the magazine's handling of a story that had horrified readers, unleashed widespread protests at the university's Charlottesville campus and sparked a national discussion about sexual assaults on college campuses.

The way the magazine reported, edited and vetted the article is a "story of journalistic failure that was avoidable," the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism said in the report. The criticism came two weeks after the Charlottesville police department said it had found no evidence to back the claims of the victim identified in the story only as "Jackie," who said she was raped by seven men at a fraternity house.

Rolling Stone's "failure encompassed reporting, editing, editorial supervision and fact-checking," said the journalism school's report, which was posted on the school's and magazine's websites.

Rolling Stone Managing Editor Will Dana posted an apology on the publication's website and said the magazine was officially retracting the story.

The article's author, Sabrina Rubin Erdely, also apologized in a statement, saying she would not repeat the mistakes she made when writing the November 2014 article "A Rape on Campus."

"Reading the Columbia account of the mistakes and misjudgments in my reporting was a brutal and humbling experience," she said.

The magazine's publisher,



**AP**  
Students participating in rush pass by the Phi Kappa Psi house at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va., in this Jan. 15, 2015 file photo.

Jann S. Wenner, however, told The New York Times that Erdely would continue to write for the magazine and that neither her editor nor Dana would be fired.

The university's president issued a statement accusing Rolling Stone of "irresponsible journalism."

Rolling Stone had asked for the independent review after numerous news media outlets found flaws with the story about Jackie, who said the attack happened during a social event at the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity house more than two years earlier. The article quoted Jackie as saying that the attack was orchestrated by a fraternity member who worked with her at the school's aquatic center.

She also said she immediately told three friends about the attack, but she said they were generally unsupportive, and that at least two encouraged her to keep quiet to protect their social standing.

The report found three major flaws in the magazine's reporting methodology: that Erdely did not try to contact the three friends, instead taking Jackie's word for it that one of them refused to talk;

that she failed to give enough details of the alleged assault when she contacted the fraternity for comment, which made it difficult for the organization to investigate; and that Rolling Stone did not try hard enough to find the person Jackie accused of orchestrating the assault.

If the fraternity had had more information, it might have been able to explain earlier that it did not hold a social function the night of the attack and that none of its members worked at the aquatic center, the report noted.

Soon after the article was published, several news media organizations began finding flaws with it, forcing Rolling Stone to acknowledge on Dec. 5 that there were some discrepancies with the story.

Dana and Erdely said they had been too accommodating of requests from Jackie that limited their ability to report the story because she said she was a rape victim and asked them not to contact others to corroborate, the report said.

However, Columbia's report said, Rolling Stone also failed to investigate reporting leads even when Jackie had not specifically

asked them not to.

"The editors made judgments about attribution, fact-checking and verification that greatly increased their risks of error but had little or nothing to do with protecting Jackie's position," it said.

The report said Rolling Stone's article may cast doubt on future accusations of rape. It also damaged the reputation of the Phi Kappa Psi chapter at U.Va. and depicted the university administration as neglectful.

Prior to the issuance of the journalism school's report, the fraternity called the Rolling Stone article defamatory and said it was exploring its legal options.

"These false accusations have been extremely damaging to our entire organization, but we can only begin to imagine the setback this must have dealt to survivors of sexual assault," said Stephen Scipione, president of

## Actor Tom Cruise attends women's Final Four game

**TAMPA, Fla. (AP)**—Tom Cruise took in a women's Final Four game on Sunday night, watching UConn beat Maryland 81-58.

The three-time Academy Award nominee sat in a suite above the Terrapins bench and received a loud ovation from the crowd when the cameras showed him on the video board.

It wasn't clear who he was rooting for. Not that it mattered to UConn star Breanna Stewart, who scored 25 points to lead the Huskies to the victory.

"No. Where was he? Oh, my gosh," she gushed after the game. "I didn't even get to meet him."

The 52-year-old Cruise has starred in several sports movies. He's played a variety of sports roles, including a football player and an agent—but not a basketball player or hoop coach. At least not recently.



**AP**  
Actor Tom Cruise, top left, watches play between Connecticut and Maryland during the first half of the NCAA Women's Final Four tournament college basketball semifinal game, Sunday, April 5, 2015, in Tampa, Fla.

## Man who doesn't want kids should look for another woman

**DEAR ABBY:** When I turned 25, after considering it for years, I went to my doctor and told him I wanted to become sterile. I got a vasectomy two months later. I haven't had any regrets, and now at 27, I'm still firmly convinced that I don't want children—ever.

I started dating a woman a year ago, "Anita," who told me that if she never had kids, she could live with it. I felt lucky to have found someone who would be OK with no kids.

I have had a few issues with Anita. When she gets upset from time to time, she says that if she stays with me, she will never have kids. I know she cares for me deeply, but I also believe she feels conflicted about giving up the chance to be a mother.

Do you think it's fair for me to pursue this relationship and hope that eventually she'll come to terms with not having children with me? Or should I end the relationship so she can find someone who shares her desire to become a parent? I worry that if I end it, it may take years before I find someone who shares my wish to never be a parent.

NO KIDS IN COLORADO

**DEAR NO KIDS:** You have been upfront with Anita. She understands that you do not want children, and that you have taken steps to ensure it won't happen. She's correct that if she stays with you, she will never have any.

**For both your sakes, the two of you need to talk this through once and for all, because if Anita is ambivalent about forgoing motherhood, she does need to find another life partner. And you need to let her do that.**

**DEAR ABBY:** It happened to me again yesterday. After I had been waiting patiently at the counter of a large department store, another woman came up and stood beside me. The clerk walked over and immediately began to ring up the other woman's purchase. I said, "I was here first!" Both the clerk and the woman apologized, but because the sale had already begun, the salesclerk completed it and I was left waiting.

I am angry about it. I feel stores should have a queue where you get in line in order, or clerks should be instructed to ask, "Who was here first?" I don't want to believe I was passed over because the other woman looked more prosperous than I do, but she was buying a very expensive handbag, while I was purchasing socks that were on clearance. How should that be handled in the future?

SHOPPER IN KENTUCKY

**DEAR SHOPPER:** If you have a complaint about service, it should be addressed to the store manager. A well-trained retail salesperson would have asked which of you

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



**was there first. The amount you were spending should have made no difference.**

**DEAR ABBY:** My wife and I travel with another couple. I furnish the vehicle and do all the driving. How should we share the expenses?

EASY RIDER IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR EASY RIDER:** The other couple should pay for half the gas and their own meals and lodging.

*For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*



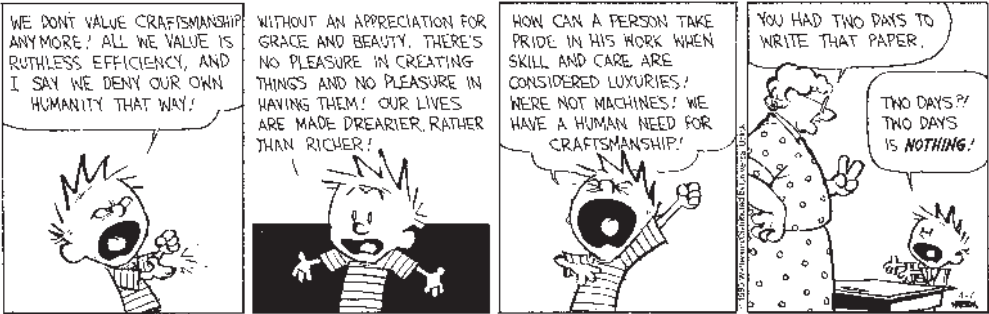
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Cry like a banshee
- 5 "Say again?"
- 9 Crafty
- 12 Europe's neighbor
- 13 German car name
- 14 Tiny veggie
- 15 Peter Parker's alter ego
- 17 Cartesian conclusion
- 18 Hostels
- 19 Doves
- 21 Founded (on)
- 24 Unaccompanied
- 25 Swiss peaks
- 26 Directly
- 30 Floral neckwear
- 31 Actor Alan
- 32 NASA deviation
- 33 Last page?

DOWN

- 16 Conclude
- 20 Yale student
- 21 Hairless
- 22 Sheltered
- 23 It takes thyme
- 24 Use a teaspoon
- 26 Spheres
- 27 Guitar's kin
- 28 Greet
- 29 Pairs
- 31 Accumulates
- 34 CBS logo
- 35 Named
- 37 Narcs' org.
- 38 Jerry Herman musical
- 39 Ellipse
- 40 Needles' mates
- 41 "Meet Me — Louis"
- 44 Use a crowbar
- 45 Take a shot at
- 46 Time of your life?
- 47 Home for 14-Across

Solution time: 22 mins.

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A	L	O	P	E	C	I	A	A	R	I	A
F	I	R	S	T	A	I	D	M	E	L	T
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P	E	G	C	E	-	E	B	C	O	P	
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E	E	L	S				S	Y	N	O	D
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A	D	A	R	B	E	A	F	R	A	I	D
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S	L	A	Y	G	E	E		D	E	L	E

Yesterday's answer 4-7

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Russell Crowe, 51; Jackie Chan, 61; John Oates, 66; Francis Ford Coppola, 76.

**Happy Birthday:** Look at the big picture. If you let the little things get to you this year, it will hamper your chances to get ahead. Discipline and preparation will help you reach your goals without delay or emotional setbacks. Think on your feet and be ready to take advantage of any possibilities that come your way. Your numbers are 4, 9, 14, 20, 28, 36, 42.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Excess will be your downfall. Say no to people who are too demanding. Changes may not be to your liking, but if you're patient and willing to put in a little more effort, you will reach your goal. ★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Your strong, dependable nature will be appreciated, but don't feel you have to pay for others when you cannot afford to do so. Pride will turn into a costly situation. Romance is highlighted, but don't jeopardize your reputation. ★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Don't let criticism get in the way of a healthy relationship with someone you work or deal with daily. Put a difference of opinion aside and focus on what needs to be accomplished. You can bring about change and make a difference. ★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** A creative project will turn out better than you anticipated. Love is on the rise, and an expression of your emotions will pay off. Your

changing attitude will attract an interesting candidate who will lead to a unique partnership. ★★★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You'll face opposition at home if you make promises you can't keep. To avoid an emotional dispute, include everyone in your plans. A trip or social event will change the way you view life. A new direction looks inviting. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You'll discover valuable information if you research, attend a conference or ask an expert about the personal changes you want to embark on. You will attract positive attention from someone who interests you. Romance is on the rise, and a commitment can be made. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Money problems will surface if you spend on aesthetics or luxury items that you don't need. A change in the way you view someone can be expected. Don't make a fuss; just try to keep the peace. ★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Use your emotions to express the way you feel. Take a unique approach to divulging your interests or secrets to someone you want to spend more time with, and it could lead to a new adventure. Stick to your budget. ★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Ask questions and get the lowdown on a festering situation before you make your move. Time is on your side, and positive results can be yours if you listen carefully to determine your best course of action. ★★★

**EUGENIA LAST**  
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Listen and learn. Back away from anyone who appears to be unpredictable or inconsistent. Focus on home, family and the people you know you can trust. Romance will result in an improved personal life and a more stable future. ★★★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Don't overreact. It will be a waste of time and cause you to miss out on an opportunity that looks promising. Changes to work, money and partnerships will lead to advancement and security. Don't let an emotional situation hold you back. ★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Re-evaluate your current position. Financial gains can be made if you are innovative in the way you approach an interview, project or revised budget. Invest in yourself, your skills and your future. Romance and personal improvements are on the rise. ★★★★★

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SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	6			7		9		8
		1	2			3		
	9							1
9	2			6		7		
				5				
		7		8			9	4
4							8	
		3			6	5		
6		9		4			7	

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	4	1	3	7	5	6	8	2
6	7	5	2	8	1	4	3	9
2	3	8	6	4	9	5	7	1
8	5	9	7	1	2	3	6	4
3	1	4	8	5	6	9	2	7
7	2	6	4	9	3	8	1	5
5	9	7	1	3	8	2	4	6
1	6	3	9	2	4	7	5	8
4	8	2	5	6	7	1	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/07

**WONDERWORD** By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**ORCHESTRAL KETTLEDRUMS** Solution: 8 letters

S R E S E N O T R E C N O C C  
S E C N I K S T A C O P P E R  
A H N D R U M H E A D S S T O  
L T A O J O A P I T C H E S D  
G A L D H R T O M M A H P T S  
R E A A M P I O U F C T O T B  
E L B O C O O N T T T F G H A  
B L N A O I I N A O S I N G N  
I Y P B S M S R A P M F I I D  
F L M M U S A U H R M S N R S  
B A L L E T C L M Y B I U B T  
B D A C I T H L L E T M T L I  
O E A M S A I O E S H E R C  
W P P O N V R U O F T F M M K  
L S P D E G N A R P A U K E N

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**Yesterday's Answer: Baskets**

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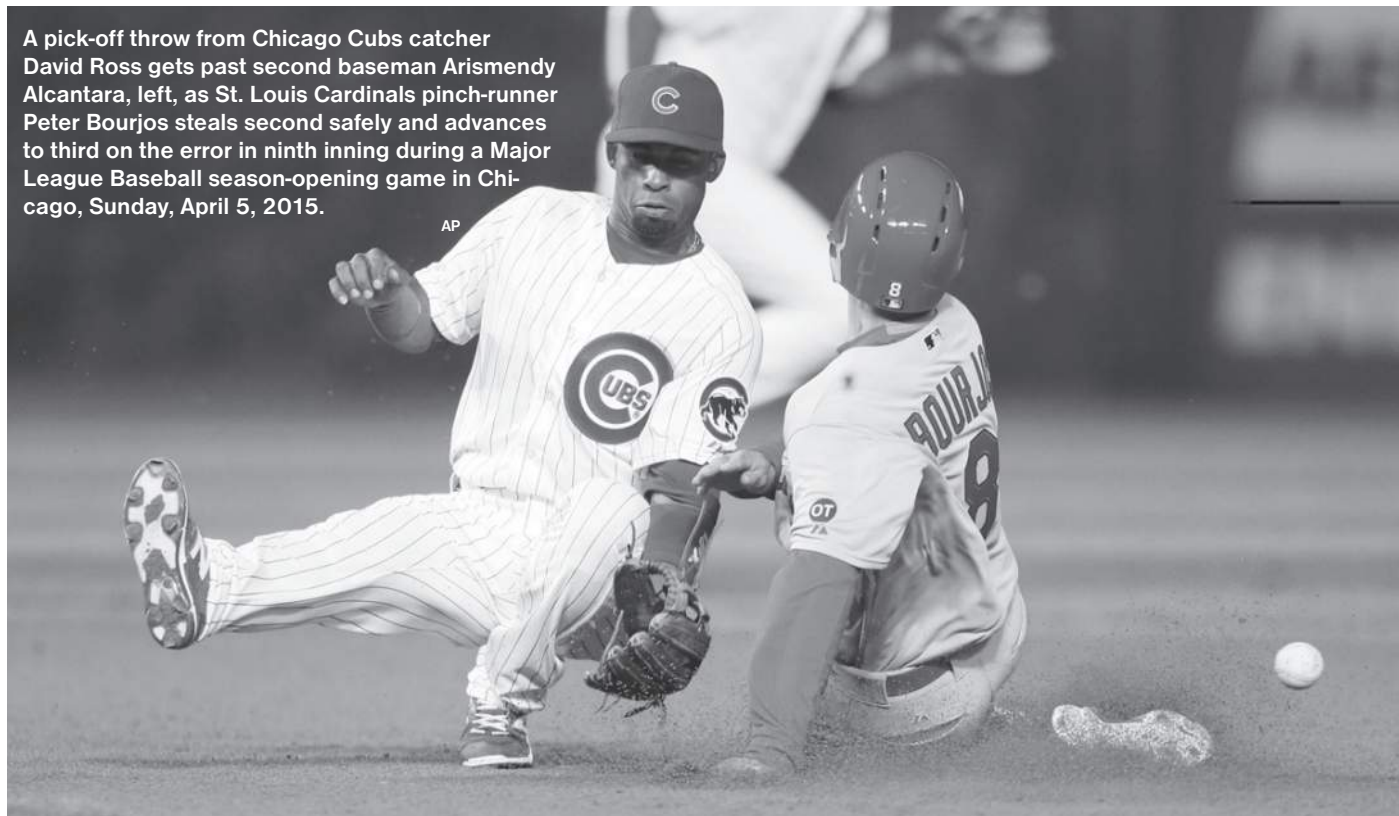
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# Dodgers set MLB record payroll at \$270 million; average is \$4.2M

A pick-off throw from Chicago Cubs catcher David Ross gets past second baseman Arismendy Alcantara, left, as St. Louis Cardinals pinch-runner Peter Bourjos steals second safely and advances to third on the error in ninth inning during a Major League Baseball season-opening game in Chicago, Sunday, April 5, 2015.

AP



**NEW YORK (AP)** —

The Los Angeles Dodgers set a baseball record with a \$270 million opening-day payroll, including nearly \$44 million going to players no longer on the team.

Major League Baseball's average salary on opening day Sunday also set a mark at \$4.2 million, according to calculations by The Associated Press. That is up 6.3 percent from last year's opening average of \$3.95 million and is a 15 percent rise over two years.

"It's a shocking number for the average family to think about," Texas Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said. "But overall it's a good thing. It's a reflection of the health of the sport."

The Dodgers' payroll, up from \$234 million at the start of last season, includes \$43.8 million for 2015 to cover the costs of Brian Wilson and Dustin McGowan, who were released; Matt Kemp, Dan Haren and Dee Gordon, who were traded; and Chad Billingsley, who was owed a buyout when his option was declined.

"The Dodgers' ownership and the front office have done a great job of collecting players, and they've shown that they're willing to spend money for what it takes to win and what they deem is the best team," Los Angeles catcher A.J. Ellis said.

The New York Yankees, whose 15-year streak as the top spender was stopped the Dodgers last year, are second at \$219 million, followed by Boston (\$175 million), World Series champion San Francisco (\$173.2 million) and Detroit (\$172.8 million).

Washington was sixth at \$166 million—more than \$100 million less the Dodgers.

At the bottom are Houston (\$69.1 million) and Miami (\$69.2 million). The Mets (\$100.1 million) reached \$100 million for the first time since 2011.

A record 508 players earn \$1 million or more.

Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw makes the most at \$31 million, followed by injured Detroit pitcher Justin Verlander (\$28 million), Dodgers pitcher Zack Greinke (\$27 million) and injured Angels outfielder Josh

Hamilton (\$25.4 million).

"Me, probably like the majority of guys in here, came from a middle-class family. My father was a police officer, my mother worked in school system, and if you would have told me that one day I'd be making the type of money that I'm making now,

I would told you that you're crazy and laughed at you," New York Mets captain David Wright said. "It's pretty surreal, but to be honest with you, I'd like to think that I don't think about it that much. You play the game, I still haven't thought about this as like a job."

## SIDEBAR

# Wainwright, Cardinals beat Cubs 3-0 on opening night

**CHICAGO (AP)**—The Chicago Cubs had Joe Maddon in the dugout, and Jon Lester on the mound. Wrigley Field had a new look, with a giant videoboard in left field and pictures of Ernie Banks draped over the closed bleachers.

The St. Louis Cardinals had Adam Wainwright, and a bunch of familiar faces in the lineup. And it was more than enough for the NL Central champs.

Opening night went to the old guard.

Wainwright threw six innings of five-hit ball, leading the Cardinals to a 3-0 victory over Lester and the Cubs on Sunday in the major league opener.

"I was fortunate to throw some good pitches when I needed to throw some good pitches," Wainwright said.

Jason Heyward had three hits in his St. Louis debut, and Matt Holliday drove in two runs. Throw in Matt Carpenter's two hits, and the top third of the Cardinals' lineup went 7 for 14 with three RBIs.

"Selfishly, I like the idea of hitting between those two," Heyward said. "Holly can do damage and Carp sees so many pitches and has good (at-bats). I'm going to be kind of spoiled hitting there."

Playing their most anticipated opener in years, the Cubs went 0 for 13 with runners in scoring position. Lester, who got a \$155 million, six-year contract during free agency, allowed three runs and eight hits over 4 1-3 innings in his fifth straight opening day start.

"Just wasn't real sharp," Lester said. "Ball was flat. Anytime I get that many fly balls I know that I'm not where I need to be."

The addition of Lester and Maddon ramped up the expectations for Chicago after five straight losing seasons. But it was more of the same in

their first game.

The biggest difference for the home team was the towering videoboard, part of a major renovation for the iconic neighborhood ballpark. Images of Banks, a Hall of Fame slugger who played for Chicago for 19 seasons and died in January at age 83, covered the famed bleachers.

The Cubs honored Banks with a pregame moment of silence, and his sons Jerry and Joey Banks each threw out a ceremonial first pitch. The club also extended its condolences to the Cardinals for Oscar Taveras, an outfield prospect who died in a car crash in his native Dominican Republic last October.

"The ballpark was absolutely electric," Maddon said. "The pregame was wonderful. Everything was great. We just have to come through with a couple knocks now and then, but we will. I thought it was a really, really—for lack of a better term—a really good night."

Heyward got the majors' first hit of the season when he doubled and scored on Holliday's single in the first. Holliday had another RBI single in the fifth.

It was more than enough for Wainwright, who was slowed by an abdominal injury early in spring training, but looked just fine in his fourth opening day start. The 6-foot-7 right-hander made the most of umpire Mike Winters' wide strike zone, striking out six with no walks.

"He's fun to watch," manager Mike Matheny said. "There's just special guys like that, when they get in tough situations, big games they're able to make the big pitch when they need to."

Carlos Martinez, who won the fifth starter job in training camp, then worked the seventh for St. Louis. Jordan Walden got three outs before Trevor Rosenthal struck out the side for the save.

# Leonard has 26, Spurs snap Warriors 12-game streak, 107-92



**SAN ANTONIO (AP)**—Kawhi Leonard matched his career-high with 26 points and set a career-high with seven steals and the San Antonio Spurs rolled past Golden State 107-92 on Sunday, ending the Warriors' 12-game winning streak while extending their own to seven straight.

San Antonio also extended its home winning streak over Golden State to 32 straight.

Tim Duncan had 19 points and Danny Green added 18 points for San Antonio, which led by as many as 28 points.

Stephen Curry had 24 points, but was harassed into 9-for-17 shooting by Leonard. Klay Thompson was held to six points on 3-for-11 shooting for Golden State.

## Pacers 112, Heat 89

In Indianapolis, Paul George's season debut provided a needed boost Sunday as the Pacers put themselves back in the playoff contention.

George finished with 13 points in 15 minutes—his first action since breaking his right leg Aug. 1.

Luis Scola scored a season-high 23 points to lead Indiana to its second straight win. The Pacers moved into a tie with Miami for the No. 9 spot in the Eastern Conference. Both teams trail Boston by one game for the conference's eighth and final playoff spot.

Miami was led by Dwyane Wade with 27 points but lost its fourth in a row.

## Rockets 115, Thunder 112

In Oklahoma City, James Harden scored 41 points, and the Houston Rockets overcame Russell Westbrook's triple-double to beat the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Harden and Westbrook, the league's top two scorers, both entered the game averaging 27.5 points. Harden made 12 of 22 shots and 6 of 9 3-pointers before fouling out with 33 seconds left. The Rockets hung on to win for the seventh time in eight games.

Westbrook finished with 40 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds. It was his 11th triple-double of the season and the 18th of his career.

Enes Kanter added 21 points and 17 rebounds for the Thunder, who lost their third straight. Their lead over New Orleans for the No. 8 spot in the Western Conference was cut to a half game.

## Cavaliers 99, Bulls 94

In Cleveland, LeBron James recorded his first triple-double since returning to Cleveland, and the Cavaliers made 16 3-pointers while winning their 18th straight home game.

J.R. Smith made eight 3s, Kyrie Irving casually dropped

one from 52 feet and scored 27 as the Cavs moved closer to a Central Division title and securing the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Mike Dunleavy scored 24 and Aaron Brooks 17 for the Bulls, who could have star guard Derrick Rose back in the next few days.

James finished with 20 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds, his first triple-double in a Cleveland uniform since May 13, 2010, two months before he left as a free agent for Miami.

## Clippers 106, Lakers 78

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin scored 18 points, DeAndre Jordan added 16 points and 11 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Clippers sent the Lakers to their team-record 56th defeat of the season.

Matt Barnes scored 14 points and Chris Paul had 15 assists for the Clippers, who handed that historic loss to their Staples Center roommates while beating the Lakers for a record sixth straight time overall.

With six games still to play, the Lakers have surpassed last season's team as the worst in the 16-time champion franchise's illustrious history.

The playoff-bound Clippers have won 10 of 11 down the stretch, staying in the tight five-team race behind Golden State for homecourt advantage in the first two rounds of the Western Conference playoffs.

## Jazz 101, Kings 95

In Sacramento, California, Rodney Hood scored 13 of his season-high 25 points in the fourth quarter and the Utah Jazz pulled away.

The Jazz were clinging to an 83-82 lead with 6:10 remaining when Hood scored the first nine points of a 14-2 run. He had a pair of three-point plays and a 3-pointer during the streak, then later made a 17-foot jumper to give Utah a 99-88 lead.

Rudy Gobert added 10 points and nine rebounds, Derrick Favors scored 11 and Jeremy Evans had 10 points off the bench for the Jazz.

Utah bounced back from a disappointing two-point loss in Phoenix 24 hours earlier.

## Knicks 101, 76ers 91

In New York, Andrea Bargnani scored 25 points and Shane Larkin added 15 and 11 rebounds, and the New York Knicks ended a nine-game losing streak.

Lance Thomas chipped in 14 points for the Knicks, whose last victory was on March 17 over the defending champion San Antonio Spurs at Madison Square Garden.

Ish Smith and reserve forward Hollis Thompson each had 17 points for the visiting 76ers, who've lost six straight.



# A shot at history for Wisconsin's Ryan and Duke's Krzyzewski

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Wisconsin's Bo Ryan has spent three decades working to get to this point, leading the Badgers into the NCAA championship game with a shot at personal history on the line.

Duke's Mike Krzyzewski has a chance at college basketball history.

Their teams meet Monday night, with Ryan going for his first Division I championship—and the program's first since winning its only other one in 1941—and Krzyzewski trying to become only the second men's coach to win five NCAA titles along with UCLA's John Wooden.

They both know success, with a combined 1,757 career wins and four national titles each to their credit—though Ryan's were in the Division III ranks. But both veteran coaches tried to divert attention toward their players Sunday rather than focus on their own role in what will be the final game of the 2014-15 season.

"I know I'm one of the really good coaches. I know we're one of the really good programs," Krzyzewski said. "Monday night is about them. They shouldn't think of anything else. It has nothing to do with Duke historically or me."

Both the Blue Devils (34-4) and the Badgers (36-3) are No. 1 seeds in the NCAA Tournament and have been among the favorites to get here all season. And the winner—either the 68-year-old Krzyzewski or 67-year-old Ryan—will become the second-oldest ever to win the title behind former Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun (68 years, 10 months, 22 days) in 2011.



Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski hugs Tyus Jones (5) after a college basketball regional final game in the NCAA Tournament Sunday, March 29, 2015, in Houston.

Ryan, in the Final Four with the Badgers for the second straight year, would be the oldest first-time winner in Division I history.

Ryan won four national titles at Wisconsin-Platteville in the 1990s, quite a change from the weekend's spectacle at Lucas Oil Stadium.

"Training table meal was hot dogs," he said of winning his



first title in 1991. "The morning of the game, I had a cream doughnut and a diet pop. Now we have the best, French toast, pancakes, eggs, omelets. We have people cooking omelets. ... All the fruit you could possibly think about eating.

"I think there was a stringer, one stringer, from the Madison paper that actually showed up and covered the game. So

you ask me what it was like. It wasn't like this."

While Ryan said the focus is "watching these guys grow and their experiences together," junior Sam Dekker said the players would like to reward Ryan in a career that includes 740 wins.

"To win it for him would be huge," Dekker said. "He deserves as much credit as any coach in the nation for what we've done here. And then to be a part of the team that would

win it for him, potentially win it for him, would be something I would never forget."

As for Krzyzewski, he already stands as the winningest coach in men's Division I history with 1,017 wins and tied Wooden this year with a record 12 Final Fours. In his 35th season at Duke, he won titles in 1991, 1992, 2001 and 2010—the '91 and '10 crowns both came in Indianapolis—and is tied with late Kentucky coach Adolph Rupp for second behind Woodmen's record total of 10 championships.

This is Krzyzewski's ninth NCAA title game, the first coming in 1986.

"It's not just the title game, it's what you learn about coaching," Krzyzewski said of lessons from those experiences. "You're constantly learning about the game. I'm a better coach now than I was in '86 or in '91 or '92. Just to be in the moment. ... I think the Final Four is a different animal like when you come in, just so you are not happy to be here, you know, that you're in this moment."

Senior Quinn Cook said part of the moment is taking advantage of the opportunity, both for the players and their Hall of Fame coach.

"We obviously know what Coach has done and what this could do for Coach," Cook said. "But Coach has stressed all year that this is about this team. ... He's made his season about us, our moment. So obviously we want to get No. 5 for him, but we want to get No. 1 for ourselves as well. That's what he wants. He wants his first one with this group."

## J.B. Holmes takes Houston Open

HOUSTON (AP)—J.B. Holmes used a strong start Sunday for a Houston Open victory in a three-way playoff against Jordan Spieth and Johnson Wagner.

The 32-year-old Holmes birdied the first five holes and nine of the first 12 after starting the day six shots back of Jordan Spieth.

He had a 64, the day's low round, and won on the second playoff hole for his fourth PGA Tour victory and the \$1,188,000 check. Although Holmes' missed birdie putt had given Wagner another chance, his short putt for par lipped out.

"I knew I had to play a really low round and I started out great," Holmes said. "It worked out for me."

Spieth, the hottest player on the Tour heading into the Masters, was trying to win his second playoff in three weeks, sandwiched around a runner-up finish in the Texas Open last Sunday. But he bowed out on the first playoff hole after his approach shot landed in a bunker and, lying two, he couldn't get anywhere close to the cup

on his chip.

Wagner, who got into the field only through a sponsor's exemption, admitted being "pretty bummed" by falling short but said he was hopeful his career is pointed in the right direction again. He was trying to become only the second player to get into the Masters on the weekend before, having done it previously by winning Houston in 2008.

Holmes' final-day rally was the biggest on the Tour since Matt Jones also came from six down to beat Matt Kuchar in a playoff last April. The Houston Open has featured more playoffs than any tournament on the circuit.

Wagner and Holmes hit perfect drives on the first playoff hole—both were on No. 18—while Spieth almost landed in the water, then wound up buried in the sand.

"I'm not sure what happened," he said. "I heard something or maybe it was just me. It's not an excuse. I got down in the sand and caught it fat and

didn't give myself a chance to continue in the playoff. But it was a great Easter Sunday."

Earlier, Spieth had seemingly shot himself out of contention with a poor approach on No. 18, the hardest hole on the course. He wound up with a steep downhill lie and a bunker to clear. However, he chipped within 11 1/2 feet, then calmly made the putt.



Spieth was trying to become the second-youngest player after Tiger Woods to win a third PGA Tour event before his 22nd birthday. He also could have passed Jimmy Walker, who pulled out of the tournament before it began citing illness, for the current season's points-standing lead.

Still, Spieth thinks he's well positioned to contend this week in the Masters. He finished second to Bubba Watson last year.

"I felt very comfortable with more and more pressure going into Augusta, which has the most pressure anywhere," he said.

Spieth earned his first PGA

victory before he turned 20, but he's still pursuing a breakthrough in one of the majors.

Beginning the final round with a single-stroke lead over three players, Spieth didn't make a lot of noise early. Meanwhile, Holmes was shuffling the leaderboard deck, negating a birdie on the third hole with a bogey on the sixth, then stringing together six pars together.

But he reclaimed a piece of first place with birdies on 13 and 14, giving his fans, including his parents who had come down from Dallas on Sunday, a jolt of energy.

Holmes began the day as an after-thought, tied for 18. But he turned the corner having shot a 29, tying the tournament course record for the front nine. His birdie on No. 8 pulled him even with Spieth and another on No. 9, coupled with a Spieth bogey back on six, gave him a lead he wouldn't relinquish before he left the course to await his fate.

"I've been working on taking it one shot at a time," Holmes said. "I did a pretty good job of that today."

When he got to 9 under through only 12 holes, speculation began as to whether he might have a 59 in him. He didn't. A bogey on the par-3 16th hole also cost him a shot at breaking the 18-hole course record of 63.

Of the three players tied for second through 54 holes, only Wagner contended Sunday.

Scott Piercy, who had tied the tournament course record with a 63 Thursday for the first-round lead, faded gradually and wound up five shots back. Austin Cook, one of four qualifiers to earn spots in the field, got to 15 under through eight holes but struggled with bogeys the rest of the way—including the last three holes—to finish six behind in 11th place in just his second PGA Tour event.

Three-time Masters champion Phil Mickelson was only a shot off the lead through 36 holes. But he began the day, like Holmes, six strokes back, having shot 75 Saturday with three consecutive closing birdies. Although he birdied the first hole, the tournament's 2011 winner never made a serious move and posted a 71 to wind up in a 17th-place tie, seven shots behind Holmes.

### SIDEBAR

#### Kentucky's Andrew Harrison apologizes for obscenity, slur

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Kentucky guard Andrew Harrison apologized Sunday for directing an obscenity and a racial slur at Wisconsin's Frank Kaminsky during a postgame news conference at the Final Four.

Harrison muttered "F--- that n----" into a live microphone when another player was asked a question about Kaminsky after Kentucky lost 71-64 to the Badgers Saturday. The loss ruined the Wildcats' undefeated season; they finished 38-1.

Harrison's comment came as a reporter asked Kentucky's Karl-Anthony Towns about defending the 7-foot Kaminsky. He muttered it with his hand in front of his mouth, but the mic picked up the comments.

Social media immediately lit up with tweets about what Harrison said along with video clips, and the program looked into the matter.

Harrison, who is black, didn't explain why he made the comments about Kaminsky, who is white. But he said in a series of tweets his comments were a "poor choice of words used in jest towards a player I respect and know."

"When I realized how this could be perceived I immediately called big frank to apologize and let him know I didn't mean any disrespect," he added.

He said the two of them had a "good conversation" and he wished him good luck in Monday's championship game.

Kaminsky confirmed Sunday that Harrison reached out to him, and then the All-America forward quickly dismissed the topic.

"Nothing needs to be made out of it," Kaminsky said.

Wisconsin's Nigel Hayes said it is not uncommon to hear players saying similar things during games.

"There's a lot of that (trash talk) that's said on the court," Hayes said. "There's a lot of guys if they lose to a player would probably have said the same type things."

Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan said the incident should be a lesson.

"In this day and age -- it reminds all of us -- whatever we say can and will be heard it seems," he said.

Harrison had 13 points and four assists in the loss. Harrison and his twin brother, Aaron, have been projected as NBA draft picks but didn't discuss their futures after the loss.



# Basa, Santy top offense, defense departments

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Public School System's Preston Basa and John Santy of Saipan Ice are leading their respective departments, in offense and defense, in the Inter-Commercial Business Basketball League 2015.

Basa, the sweet-shooting guard who coaches both the Marianas High School boys' and girls' basketball teams, is the league's top scorer with a per game average of 26.6 points or a total of 160 after six matches.

Basa, who guided the Dol-

phins to the Marianas Interscholastic boys' and girls' basketball titles, has also buried a total of 35 3-pointers or firing an average of six per game.

Docomo Pacific's Tony Diaz is second to Basa in terms of scoring with 22.1 while IT&E's Jason Palacios is third at 18.14. PIC's Jack Aranda, meanwhile, is the league's second best 3-point shooter with 16, while Palacios is still third with 14.

PSS' Jerry Diaz is on top of the assists department with 4.1 per game followed by Tony Diaz 3.5 and Joeten's Syl Teregeyo's 3.3, respectively.

Joel Fernandez of Saipan Ice is currently the league's best in steals with a 4.4 per game average, while IT&E teammates Palacios and Nate Mateo are second and third with 4.0 and 3.4 per outing.

Santy, meanwhile, tops the block shot and rebounding departments.

He is not alone on top of the blocks department though as he is joined by Saipan Ice teammate Ben Olopai with 1.80 per game, while Docomo's Rick Sanchez is swatting 1.16 per outing.

Mobil's Prince Factor, PSS'



ROSELYN MONROYO

Tony Diaz of Docomo Pacific is the Inter-Commercial Business Basketball League's second-best passer.

## SSC

From Page 28

ahead of Akimaru, who teamed up with biker Cesar Fortalez and runner Keith Longuski and posted a field-best time of 2:51:44

In the shorter but more challenging 1.5-kilometer race in the waters off Micro Beach for XTERRA Saipan, Akimaru swam even better, placing third overall behind champion Allen (15:57) and runner-up Bradley Weiss (17:10) and downing a bunch of pros after registering 17:16. The SSC swimmer joined forces with fellow youth athlete Erico Castro and Seiya Eda to lord it over in the relay division of the rain-soaked race after posting an impressive time of 3:25:03. Akimaru's team was the lone squad to finish the treacherous course under four hours.

The Marianas High School student said he loves doing both races and was happy to conquer the challenging swim course in XTERRA this year.

"In XTERRA, the current was pretty strong and I love the challenge," said Akimaru, who has been participating in the Saipan Sportsfest for the last five years. "For Tagaman, I will try to do solo next year."

Akimaru was so impressive in the swim leg that XTERRA Saipan banquet host Glenn Policare told teams interested in competing in next year's race to call "180-KENTO" if they are looking for a swimmer.

Akimaru's teammates Jinju Thompson, Rintaro Miyawaki, and Christian Villacrusis also completed the Saipan Sports-

fest. The debuting Thompson did the Olympic distance of the Tagaman relay, logging 24:34 in the 1.5K swim and finishing fifth overall out of 56 swimmers. The 12-year-old swimmer teamed up with her father, Colin, and runner Kaden Church and they finished third in the mixed relay and fourth overall after finishing the race in 2:46:03.

"I am glad I tried both races this year. It was a lot of fun, though I was first nervous getting into the water during XTERRA because of the rain. However, once I was in the water, the nervousness was gone and I just focused on finishing the race," said Thompson, who was No. 18 (21:36) out of 63 in the XTERRA swim leg.

Thompson and teammates Wynn Brillo and Miyawaki took the runner-up honors in the mixed relay and fourth overall with their time of 4:17:18.

Miyawaki finished the 12K trail run in 1:21:26 for the No. 33 spot and defeated 28 others.

"It was my first time to try trail running and it was a lot harder than running on the road. The course was so slippery and the rocks were sharp," said the 10-year-old SSC member.

Miyawaki also did the run leg of Tagaman, timing in at 51:32 in the 10K race for No. 12 spot out of 55 runners. He teamed up with fellow SSC swimmers Rinto Takahashi and Taiga Sato and the trio placed fifth overall and second in the men's division after completing the Olympic distance course in 2:46:05.

Villacrusis was first out of the water in the Olympic distance

course, timing in at 21:58. His team, which also had biker Fred Remillosa and runner Ricardo Antonio, placed third in the men's relay and sixth overall with a time of 2:49:50.

In XTERRA, Villacrusis was fifth overall after posting 18:21, just 11 seconds behind many-time XTERRA champion Marceau. Villacrusis had the same teammates in XTERRA and this time they gained the runner-up honors in the men's and third overall with a time 4:12:43.

"This year's XTERRA was more intense because of the rain, but I am still happy with my time," said Villacrusis, who debuted in the off-road race last season and also joined the Taga Kids this year.

Victoria Chentsova also returned this year for XTERRA and she and teammates Butch Sublemente and Enrique Evangelista were ranked first in the mixed relay and second overall after timing in at 4:04:08.

The 17-year-old Chentsova was seventh overall out of the water, but first in the women's field as her 18:33 defeated the 18:34 of division champion and United Kingdom pro Jacqui Slack.

"I love the course condition this year because the rain and strong current pushed me to swim harder. It was very exciting," said Chentsova, who said trying the ocean swim and joining a triathlon team give SSC swimmers an opportunity to bond with other athletes.

"It's a good cross training and at the same time a great chance to meet other people and form new relationships," she said.

Mel Manibusan and Joeten's Alex Lauron are averaging one block a game apiece.

Santy is also the league's leading rebounder with an av-

erage of 12.5 per game, while Olopai is grabbing 9.6. Lauron is at third with 9.1.

Action resumes today after the Holy Week break with Joeten

facing IT&E at 6:30pm, while undefeated MARPAC takes on PSS in the 8pm second game.

On Thursday, Docomo tangles with Mobil in the 6:30pm opener and will be followed by the Saipan Stevedore-Fiesta Resort tiff at 8pm.

## Unsa, Agulto lead M-League in goals made

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Wild Bill's Tanapon Unsa and World Resort's Daniel Agulto so far has the most goals in the M-League.

Unsa has earned 14 goals in seven games in Division 1 to pace eight others. He is ahead of Tan Holdings striker Sean Perez, who has collected 10. MP United's top gun Joe Miller is at third place with seven, followed by Tan Holdings' Martin Jambor (5), Inter Godfather's Peter Loken (4), Paire's Yoshi Mafnas (4), Inter Godfather's Chris Nelson (4) and Ryu Tanzawa (3), and Wild Bill's Abdul Detdon (3).

In Division 2, Agulto is holding on to a shaky lead against Shirley's's Kosuke Sato and the

Thundercats' Yong Jun Jeon. The former CNMI National Team member has collected eight goals against the seven apiece of Jeon and Sato. Kanoa's Bradley Broston is at solo third place with his



Agulto

six goals, while Sun Palace's Junsik Kim (5), Shirley's Fradel Sedillo (5), Matansa's Tej Gurung (5) and Jeongwook Hwang (5), World Resort's Hoin Ryu (4), the Thundercats' Cosmos Kim (4), Kanoa's Davy Laxa (4), and Shirley's Muneaki Arai (4) rounded out the Top 12.

In the team standings in Division 2, Matansa is enjoying the top view with its 5-1-1 win-draw-loss record. Kanoa is at second place with its 5-1-2 slate, followed by Shirley's (3-

3-3), Sun Palace (3-3-1), Thundercats (3-2-3), World Resort (1-4-3), and the CNMI Women's National Team (0-0-7).

In Division 1, Tan Holdings FC holds a 6-0-1 card to lead Wild Bill's (5-0-2), MP United (4-1-1), Inter Godfather's (2-

1-3), Paire (2-0-5), and Korean Football Association on Saipan (0-0-7).

Meanwhile, the league will resume action this weekend after taking a break last Easter Sunday. Wild Bill's will take on Inter Godfather's this Sunday in the first game at 2pm, while Tan Holdings will duel MP United in the second match in Division 1 at 4pm. In Division 2 matches, Sun Palace will collide against Shirley's at 6pm, while Matansa will meet the Thundercats at 8pm.

## Contrasting scenes in three SEDA divisions

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Sister teams Naked Fish Oneshot and Na'Gupu are tied on top of the Thursday B division, while two squads have doubled up their lead in the Tuesday B and Kingfisher leagues after Week 6 action of the Bud Light-Saipan Electronic Darts Association Winter/Spring season.

The Oneshot and Na'Gupu are tied for the division lead after contrasting wins last week. The Oneshot nipped Jonny's Kyodai, 8-7, while Na'Gupu scored an 11-4 decision against the Abyss Serial Killaz.

Both Naked Fish-backed squads hold similar 56-34 slates, five wins ahead of the Kyodai's 51-39 record. The Jokers Snipers are in fourth (44-46) followed by the 42-48 mark

of the Ridin Darry, another Naked Fish-supported team.

Cellar-dwelling Sand Juvy No Fear drubbed the Ridin Darry, while the Snipers tripped the Jonny's Real Deal, 11-4, in other Thursday B games.

The Jokers Atarashi Boyz and sister team Spartans are both enjoying 11-win leads in the Tuesday B and Kingfisher divisions, respectively.

The Atarashi Boyz escaped with an 8-7 triumph over the Sand Juvy Pasaway, while the Spartans scored a 10-5 victory against Chagi Fan.

The Atarashi Boyz are on top with a 61-29 mark against the Smoke Pub Titans and Pasaways' 50-40 slates. The Spartans enjoy a 64-26 card over the 53-37 record of Route33 Dart Knights.

### Masters

- Shoot Balut 9, Destroyers 8
- TDI Summit 12, Pythons 5
- Chelu's 13, Scratch 'N Snitt 4

## DIYCO

From Page 28

"Since I was a kid, my dad got me into watching triathlon events and it made me want to try the sport," said Diyco, who started taking up swimming lessons in the third grade.

He added that his dad also regularly brought him to watch XTERRA Saipan and the Tagaman Triathlon events on island.

His 1:32:39 record in XTERRA Saipan's run leg is his best time in a jungle trail course.

"I expected the XTERRA Saipan course to be hard. I'm still getting used to it. But I loved it and it was a great feeling finishing the entire course," Diyco added.

### A Division

- Mafia 9, Warriors 8
- Voyagers 13, No Fear 4
- Ridin Darry 10, Predators 7
- Sakude 12, Snipers 5
- Proofers 9, Hunters 8

### Ladies

- Vicious Darts 8, Try Luck 7
- Pasawayz 9, Kitty Katz 6

### Tuesday B

- Titans 9, Dartaholics 6
- Like It Or Not 9, Dabarkadz 6
- Sunrisers 9, No Fear 6

### Fanihi B

- Latte Sparts 11, Mixblood Shooters 4
- Dragon Warriors 10, 80 Proofers 5
- Preba Darts 12, Warriors 3

### Kingfisher

- Bull It 13, Blue Koi 2
- Sea Ricks 8, Hafa Mas 7
- Dart Knight 8, High Flyers 7

seeded in both occasions, but failed to win the singles crown. He is currently ranked No. 541 in the world.

Jack Barber of the U.S. and Japanese Yurie Takanishi were last year's champions after surviving a three-set finale against Taisei Miyamoto and Nanaka Takeuchi, respectively. In 2013, the boys and girls crowns went to Hong Kong's Anthony Jackie Tang and Japan's Mei Otsuka.

Meanwhile, NMITA would like to thank title sponsor IT&E, Marianas Visitors Authority, Coca-Cola, Hertz Rent A Car, and Oceania Tennis Federation for supporting next month's contest, which will hold games at the Pacific Islands Club and Kanoa Resort.



# 2015 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Marianas High School's Ethan Manalili, 12, provides a screen for teammate Karlo De Leon during their game against Kagman High School.



Settsu Red Impulse's Taiki Kondo pulls up for a short jumper against Marianas High School's Kobe Mendoza.



Settsu Red Impulse's Takuya Sawai splits the defense of two Mt. Carmel School players during their pool play game in the 2015 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Marianas High School's Prince Factor challenges the defense of Settsu Red Impulse's Tatsumi Yamashita.



Haruki Kinumura drives against two Settsu Red Impulse players.



Settsu Red Impulse's Tomohiro Ishikawa slips past the defense of Marianas High School's Mike Arciaga.



Marianas High School's Prince Factor drives against Settsu Red Impulse defenders during the first quarter of their title game.



Marianas High School's Mike Arciaga looks for a teammate to pass the ball to as he is up against two Settsu Red Impulse defenders.



Settsu Red Impulse's Miyu Ohara dribbles away from the defense of Marianas High School's Negahr Rastguiy.



Settsu Red Impulse's Karen Morishita loses her dribble, while Marianas High School's Friendly Joy Pena, left, and Diane Pablo stay in the play.





**Dodgers set  
MLB record  
payroll at  
\$270M; average  
is \$4.2M**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Basa, Santy  
top offense,  
defense  
departments**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## SSC holds ground in Saipan Sportsfest

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club swimmers made their presence felt in last month's Saipan Sportsfest, showing notable performances in the 2015 Tagaman Triathlon and 2015 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Kento Akimaru did both races and helped his team to an overall top finish in the relay division. In the Half Ironman course in Tagaman, the 14-year-old swimmer was fifth out of the water in the 1.9-kilometer swim leg held in the waters off the Pacific Islands Club. The four other swimmers who beat Akimaru



were all pros, while the SSC swimmer defeated 24 others, including pros Renata

Bucher, Carina Wasle, Alexander Dorovskikh, Belinda Hadden, David Esposito, and Daz Parker.

Akimaru's 27:15 in the swim leg was just less than three minutes behind Tagaman winner Ben Allen's 24:50. Pros Olivier Marceau (25:29), women's champion Mieko Carey (25:49), and Kaon Cho (26:32) finished

**See SSC on Page 26**

ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
From left, Saipan Swim Club's Christian Villacrusis, Rintaro Miyawaki, Jin Ju Thompson, Kento Akimaru, and Victoria Chentsova pose with their medals during the awards ceremony for the 2015 XTERRA Saipan Championship last month at the Pacific Islands Club.

## Diyco wants to join more triathlon events

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The triathlon bug must have bitten Jerome Diyco really hard as the 15-year-old is looking to join more races after earning a spot in the 2015 XTERRA World Championship in Maui, Hawaii on Nov. 1.

Diyco, who was the lone competitor in the 15-19 age group, conquered last week's 43.5-kilometer rain-soaked and muddy XTERRA Saipan

course in 4:19:59 to clinch the spot in Maui.

He was the 24th swimmer who came out of the two-lap swim course clocking 23:46 or 7:49 behind eventual champion and pro Ben Allen of Australia (15:57). He finished the bike and run legs in 2:20:17 and 1:32:39, respectively.

"Qualifying in Maui made me want to do more of this type of races. I want to join

more of this," said Diyco. "I wasn't sure at first that I topped my age group. It was a great feeling to know that you qualified for the XTERRA World Championship."

The Saipan Southern High School freshman said he had mixed emotions after completing the grueling race and crossing the finish line with no injuries.

"I have trained for one year for this race. I was a bit slow at first but once I got my rhythm, I felt more comfortable and at ease," added Diyco, whose strongest part of the triathlon is the bike leg.

Although, he also tried playing basketball it was in triathlon that he chose to concentrate more after his father and cycling enthusiast, Jay, let him watch triathlon events on television and on Saipan.

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JON PEREZ  
Jerome Diyco heads to the next portion of the trail run leg of last week's XTERRA Saipan Championship. Diyco is one of the age group finishers that earned spots in this year's XTERRA World Championship in Maui, Hawaii.



## NMI Junior ITF lures over 130 players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

More than 130 players so far have registered for the 2015 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships that will be held on Saipan from May 19 to 24.

"We already have 132 and this is the biggest since we started hosting a Junior ITF ranking event in 2013," Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association official Jeff Race said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Race added that this year's competition has lured tennis players from 27 countries, including Europe's Germany, United Kingdom, South Africa, Estonia, and Poland. Japan is also sending a bunch of players, while the CNMI is expected to field between 12 and 14.

The Junior ITF event is for players in the 13 to 18 age group and participants will have a chance to earn ranking points both in singles and doubles contests. The Saipan-hosted tourna-

ment is a Grade 5 event, which offers 30 ranking points to the singles champion and 20 (each) to the doubles winners.

"Players should turn 13 by the start of the tournament and one of our players, Ken Song, will meet that standard as he

will turn 13 on the kick-off day. It's a good birthday gift for him," Race said.

Race also said out of the more than 130 players who registered for the six-day competition, 79

**See NMI on Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Jack Barber of the U.S. makes a backhand return to Japan's Taisei Miyamoto during their title game in last year's IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.